

Soviets, Egypt reach debts accord

CABO (R) — The Soviet Union is prepared to give Egypt more time to repay outstanding military debts, the leader of a Soviet delegation said Sunday after 12 days of talks with Egyptian officials on economic cooperation. Viktor Demchenko, head of the Soviet state bank, speaking to reporters after meeting Egyptian Economy Minister Youssef Mustapha, said talks on the military debt would resume in Moscow in February or March. He said Moscow had agreed "to provide Egypt with the longest possible time to repay its debts." He did not elaborate. Egypt's military debts to the Soviet Union, accumulated in the 1960s and early 1970s when Moscow was Egypt's main arms supplier, are estimated by Western diplomats in Cairo at \$3 billion. A Cairo magazine said last week Egypt and the Soviet Union were close to a rescheduling agreement which would provide for a five-year relief on repayments and the rescheduling of debts over 20 years.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية. الراي.

Chirac appeals for calm

PARIS (R) — Prime Minister Jacques Chirac, embroiled in the most serious crisis of his nine-month-old government, appealed for calm on Sunday after the death of a student in a clash with police and the worst night of violence in Paris since the 1968 student uprising. Mr. Chirac sought to rally the demoralised supporters of his right-wing RPR party at a congress called to mark its 10th anniversary. He hit out at what he called "helmeted minorities" which he blamed for the past week's violence and made "an appeal for calm. An appeal to reason and the responsibility of all." Student leaders maintained their rejection of the rightist government's higher education bill and called on unions and supporters to join them in a national strike on Wednesday (see page 8).

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Senate meets on budget tomorrow

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Upper House of Parliament (Senate) will meet on Tuesday to study the JD 1,018 billion draft budget for 1987. The call for the meeting was issued by Senate Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi. On Sunday, the Financial Committee of the Lower House of Parliament met under the chairmanship of Mousa Abul Ragheb. The committee meeting, which was attended by Dr. Sami Judeh, minister of state for parliamentary affairs, and General Budget Department Director Ali Al Othman, discussed the budget which was presented to the House on Saturday.

Kuwait sets trial of cafe bombers

KUWAIT (R) — Five Arabs will go on trial on Monday accused of killing 10 people and injuring more than 80 in last year's bombings of two crowded Kuwaiti cafes. The Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) said Sunday that two defendants would appear in the state security court and three still at large would be tried in their absence. They face charges of premeditated murder, arson, unlawful use of weapons, illegal ownership of explosives and ammunition and subversive activities. The trial will be in camera after opening formalities, KUNA said.

Vietnam's chief of staff dies

BANGKOK (AP) — General Le Trung Tan, Vietnam's army chief of staff and a key figure in the Vietnam war, has died of a heart attack in Hanoi, the Vietnam News Agency said Sunday. He was 72. Gen. Tan, who also was vice minister of national defence, died in a military hospital on Friday, the official agency said.

Togolese party makes no move on Israel

LOME (R) — Togo's ruling party on Sunday endorsed President Gnassingbe Eyadema to lead the country for seven more years but made no recommendation on renewing diplomatic relations with Israel. About 2,000 delegates at the fourth congress of the Togolese People's Party, the country's only political party, agreed that Mr. Eyadema should be the only candidate in a presidential election which could take place before the end of this year. But the congress made no recommendation about country renewing diplomatic ties with Israel, which were cut in 1973.

Britain said to have rejected Israeli approach

LONDON (R) — Britain has turned down approaches by Israel for help in developing protection against chemical weapons attacks, the Sunday Telegraph newspaper said. The newspaper quoted British defence sources as saying no formal requests for assistance had been lodged by Israel. But unofficial approaches have been met coolly by Britain, ensuring that no formal requests would follow, it said.

INSIDE

- Ireland voices 'grave concern' over killing of soldier in Lebanon, page 2
- Government adopts new customs duty measures, page 3
- Gandhi buys time but no solution in Punjab, page 4
- Draft budget reflects drive to accelerate development, page 5
- Dynamo Kiev retains title, page 6
- Arab oil income seen falling by \$60 billion in 1986, page 7
- Dozens hurt in Paris violence, page 8

Palestinians escalate anti-Israeli protests

Occupation troops shoot and wound 2 in Gaza
Combined agency dispatches

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — Palestinians stepped up anti-Israeli protests on Sunday, hurling stones at Israeli vehicles, setting tyres on fire, staging strikes and blocking traffic throughout the occupied West Bank.

Israeli troops shot and injured two Palestinian youths in the Gaza Strip during a demonstration to protest the fourth straight day of violence by Israeli soldiers in the Israeli-occupied territories.

Israeli authorities said Palestinians hurled stones at Israeli vehicles, set tyres on fire and blocked traffic in a dozen towns and refugee camps of the Gaza Strip and West Bank in the worst wave of violence to hit the areas this year.

An Israeli cabinet statement said troops and border police acted "properly" last week when two students at Birzeit University and a 14-year-old boy from the Balata refugee camp were killed during demonstrations in the occupied West Bank.

The two Birzeit students were buried at the weekend in the Gaza Strip, where 500,000 Palestinians have lived under Israeli occupation since 1967.

Israeli troops fired live

ammunition and tear-gas shells in an attempt to quell dozens of protests on Sunday after six Israelis were injured and at least 65 Palestinians arrested on Saturday.

On Sunday Israeli troops also opened fire to disperse protesters in Bethlehem and a nearby refugee camp, the army said.

In the Gaza city of Khan Yunis, Israeli troops shot Mohammad Kamel Ishbaier, 19, and a second unidentified youth who were among a crowd carrying Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) flags and shouting "free Palestine," a Palestinian source in Gaza told AP. The source asked for anonymity, citing concern for his safety.

Shopkeepers in Khan Yunis shuttered their stores in protest of the latest wave of Israeli violence against Palestinians. Israeli soldiers driving jeeps with loudspeakers sped through the town, ordering that the stores be

reopened, the Palestinian source said.

In Bethlehem, soldiers cordoned off the centre of the city where tradition says Jesus was born, the army said. There were no immediate reports of injuries.

One Israeli bus driver was injured in East Jerusalem when his windshield was shattered by Palestinian protesters, Israeli police said.

Palestinian sources told AP the windshields of at least six Israeli cars were smashed by stone-throwing protesters when the vehicles drove through the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

In Jerusalem, Arab shopkeepers shut their stores and pupils stayed home in protest against last week's killings.

At the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, police fired tear gas to break up a clash between 100 Arab students protesting at the deaths and 50 right-wing Jewish students holding a counter-demonstration.

There were smaller incidents at Haifa and Tel Aviv universities.

On Saturday night, club-wielding mounted police broke up a Jewish-Arab demonstration by Tel Aviv University students in the centre of the city that was staged to protest Israel's West Bank policy. Police arrested 15, a police spokeswoman said.

17 civilians killed and 46 hurt in Iranian attacks on Iraqi cities

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iranian air and artillery attacks on the southern Iraqi port of Basra and four border towns killed 17 civilians and wounded 46 in the past 24 hours, Iraq said Sunday.

A high command communiqué said 10 people were killed and 27 injured in Basra where eight houses and several other buildings including a church, a hospital, a school and a cinema were damaged.

Iran said it fired three short-range missiles into Basra and its air force raided targets in five other Iraqi areas in retaliation for Iraqi air raids which it said killed more than 125 people over the past two days.

Baghdad's communiqué made no mention of the missiles, but it said Basra was shelled by Iranian artillery and two border towns were attacked by two Iranian

warplanes. Residents in Basra, a city of one million people, said they heard explosions which were louder than those normally caused by artillery shells.

"The explosions we heard this morning were somehow different than those caused by artillery. They sounded like those caused by missiles," said one resident contacted by telephone.

The communiqué said Iraqi warplanes flew 11 sorties on Iranian troop concentrations on Sunday, including two attacks on military camps in southern Iran.

In Baghdad, people were braced for an Iranian surface-to-surface missile attack during the next 24 hours. Past Iranian threats to bombard Iraq cities have been followed by missiles launched on the Iraqi capital, the last of which on Nov.

26 killed 33 people.

Iraqi Information Minister Nassif Al Jassem has warned Iranian rulers of serious consequences if they went ahead with "the foolishness of attacking residential areas in Iraq."

He denied that Iraqi aircraft had raided residential areas of Basra, saying the planes were "directed against targets used by the Tehran regime to continue its aggressions against Iraq."

Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) said the missiles were launched amid a 48-hour artillery bombardment of Basra and "economic centres and military fortification" along the battlefield that began at 8 p.m. (1630 GMT) Saturday in retaliation.

IRNA said the short-range missiles damaged "military and economic targets" in Basra.

'White House knew Iran behind Beirut bombings before arms sent'

WASHINGTON (R) — The Iran arms scandal deepened Sunday with a report that the White House knew Tehran had ordered the bombings of the U.S. embassy and Marine headquarters in Beirut before President Ronald Reagan approved the sale of U.S. weapons to Iran.

The report coincided with growing demands by legislators, concerned the scandal could damage the presidency, that Mr. Reagan find out and make public all the facts about the arms sales and how profits of up to \$30 million found their way to Nicaraguan rebels.

The Miami Herald newspaper said Sunday a White House official, whom it did not name, confirmed that arms were sent to Tehran despite firm knowledge that Iran had ordered and financed the bombings of the U.S. embassy and Marine headquarters in Beirut in 1983 that killed some 258 Americans, mainly Marines.

According to the newspaper, the ultra-secret National Security Agency (NSA) intercepted Iranian diplomatic messages ordering the bombings and so knew about them in advance.

The U.S. administration refused comment on the report, but one prominent congressman, New York Democrat Stephen Solarz, told Cable News Network (CNN) it was "entirely credible." "Obviously the NSA knew about this and I would have to surmise the president knew about it too," the Herald quoted the unnamed official as saying.

North, fired last month from his National Security Council (NSC) job for his involvement in sending profits from the Iran arms sales to Nicaraguan rebels, had been assigned by the NSA to investigate the barracks bombing of Oct. 23, 1983.

The newspaper said sources close to that investigation said the NSA intelligence had been confirmed by the confession of a suspect in the embassy bombing that he was the paymaster for the operation and that the money had come from Iran.

The report came on the eve of public congressional investigations into the scandal. Most congressional leaders say they believe Mr. Reagan did not know the profits from the arms sales — which he said were symbols of good faith in an attempt to improve relations with Iran — were funnelled to the Nicaraguan "contra" rebels.

The administration says the only official who did know the precise details of an operation conducted while military aid to the contras was barred by Congress was Col. North. It says NSC Chief Admiral John Poindexter, who resigned over the affair, had a general knowledge of the operation.

Leading U.S. legislators said Sunday they feared protracted investigations could paralyse the presidency and that the best way out of the problem was for Mr. Reagan to insist that Adm. Poindexter and Col. North tell him precisely what happened.

Democrat James Wright, the Texas Democrat who is to be named leader of the House of Representatives on Monday, welcomed Mr. Reagan's admission on Saturday that mistakes had been made in implementing his Iran initiative.

But some said Mr. Reagan had to go further, by admitting specifically that sending arms to Iran in violation of a U.S. embargo was a mistake.

"Many people wonder why the president doesn't call in Mr. Poindexter and Col. North and say, 'Fellas, let's sit down and you tell me precisely what happened,'" Senate majority leader Robert Dole said on CBS television.

"Maybe it would be better if the president said, 'come on in. Let's have a little visit. You tell me what happened so I can tell the American people,'" said Mr. Dole, who heads the Republican party in the Senate.

His view was backed by Nevada Senator Paul Laxalt, a close friend of Mr. Reagan and another member of his Republican party. "We shouldn't have to wait for the New York Times or the Washington Post or the (television) networks to break these things. We should be doing that. We should get ahead of the information curve," Mr. Laxalt said on NBC television.

Mr. Poindexter and Col. North so far have both refused to testify to closed congressional hearings about the operation, invoking their Fifth Amendment rights not to incriminate themselves.



KING RECEIVES ENVOYS: His Majesty King Hussein on Sunday received (left) Mohammad Al Mirghani, leader of the Sudanese Unionist Democratic Party (see page 3), in a meeting attended by Sudan's ambassador to Jordan, and Egyptian Minister of Energy and Electricity Maher Abaza in a meeting attended by



Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Hisham Al Khatib. The King also received at the Royal Court in separate meetings on Sunday Senegalese Ambassador-designate to Jordan Abdullah Dyon, who conveyed to him a message from Senegalese President Abdo Diouf, and the president of the Spanish University in Seville.

Arab ministers meet today on Amal-PLO conflict

AMMAN (J.T.) — Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri left for Tunis on Sunday to take part in an emergency meeting of Arab foreign ministers scheduled to be held on Monday. The meeting has been called to discuss the fighting in Lebanon between Palestinians and Lebanese militiamen.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) asked for the meeting following nine weeks of fighting around Palestinian refugee camps in Beirut and southern Lebanon between Palestinians and the Shiite Amal movement.

In Tunis, a PLO official said the PLO would seek Arab guarantees ensuring an end to the "camps war" in Lebanon at the meeting of Arab League foreign ministers.

The establishment of a permanent committee to safeguard Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon is among the proposals the PLO will put to the meeting, a spokesman for the PLO political department told Reuters.

The meeting of the 21-member Arab League has been called at foreign minister level but it is not clear how many ministers will attend.

Arab diplomatic sources said Iraq was sending its Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz, but other key League members were sending lower-level representatives.

Syria and Lebanon are against the meeting which Lebanon implies infringes its sovereignty. It was not clear how or whether they would be represented, the sources added.

Lebanon boycotted a similar Arab League session in June last year during a flare-up of fighting around the refugee camps in Beirut and southern Lebanon. Syria walked out after a speech by PLO chairman Yasser Arafat.

The PLO is sending Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen), an executive committee member, instead of Farouk Kaddoumi, head of its political department.

The PLO has accused Syria of supporting Amal in a plan to chase Palestinians from Lebanon and accuses Mr. Arafat of seeking to reestablish the military power the PLO lost after the 1982 Israeli invasion of Lebanon.

Salah Khalaf, a leader of the mainline PLO faction Fateh, said Saturday the PLO would submit a draft plan for ending the Lebanon fighting to the Tunis conference.

Mr. Khalaf, contacted by telephone in Kuwait by AP, listed the points as: — An immediate ceasefire in Beirut and South Lebanon; — Lifting Amal's sieges of the Shatila and Bourj Al Barajneh camps in Beirut and Rashidiyeh in Tyre;

— Arab guarantees that Amal will not attack any of the camps again; — Discussion of the PLO presence in Lebanon with the Lebanese government and nationalist and Islamic forces trusted by the PLO and which did not take part in the fighting.

Sporadic clashes continue around Lebanon refugee camps

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Palestinian fighters and Lebanese Amal militiamen fought sporadic clashes in Beirut and South Lebanon on Sunday as Iranian mediators tried to revive a short-lived ceasefire.

Police said four people were killed and 18 wounded in the exchanges between militiamen of Justice Minister Nabih Berri's mainstream Shiite Amal movement and fighters of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Sunday's casualties raised the known toll from 14 days of fighting in Beirut and the south to at least 431 killed and 936 wounded by police count.

Shell blasts shook Beirut as Amal and PLO fighters traded mortar, rocket and machine gun fire around the Shatila and Bourj Al Barajneh refugee camps.

Police said fighting also flared

around Maghdousheh, a strategic hilltop town five kilometres southeast of the port city of Sidon in the south.

Maghdousheh overlooks the Palestinian refugee camps of 'Ain Al Hilweh and Mieh Mieh and commands the coastal highway linking Sidon with the rest of the predominantly Shiite south.

A four-man Iranian delegation met with representatives of the Palestine National Salvation Front (PNSF), an alliance of six pro-Syrian PLO factions, to try to work out a compromise to end the two-week-old battles.

The negotiations apparently deadlocked on the PLO's refusal to let Amal return to positions around Maghdousheh the fighters seized Nov. 24.

As sporadic crackles of machinegun fire echoed from hillside battle lines above Sidon, the Iranian team also held a third

round of talks in two days with officials of the Amal militia.

The Iranians refused to talk to reporters "before results are achieved."

The Iranian-mediated truce came into effect on Friday and stemmed savage battles in the nine-week-old "camps war" in which at least 600 people have been killed, according to militia, hospital and security sources. The truce was shattered on Saturday.

Beirut newspapers said the Iranians were working on the main compromise of the accord — withdrawal of Palestinians from Maghdousheh in return for relief supplies to their Rashidiyeh camp near Tyre, besieged by Amal for two months.

Disagreements were over the timing of moves and who would act as the buffer force between the fighters if they withdrew, officials from both sides said.

Berri rejects new proposals and insists on reviving collapsed truce

Lamis K. Andoni in Damascus

CONFUSION prevailed in Damascus on Sunday over mediation efforts to secure a ceasefire agreement between Palestinian fighters and Lebanese Amal militiamen and end the nine-week-old fighting around Palestinian camps in Lebanon after the Palestinian side proposed a new six-point plan and Amal leader Nabih Berri rejected it.

The new Palestinian proposals, which informed sources said were endorsed by Fateh, the mainstream group in the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), call for Palestinian withdrawal from the strategic South Lebanese hilltop village of Maghdousheh, which was captured by PLO fighters last week, in return for Amal lifting its siege of the Rashidiyeh camp near Tyre and deployment of "nationalist and Islamic forces" in the village. But Mr. Berri rejected the proposal insisting on a ceasefire based on an Iranian-brokered truce which was announced on Friday and broke down in less than 12 hours.

According to Mr. Berri's interpretation of the collapsed truce, Amal men, who were driven off from Maghdousheh last week, would regain control of the position which overlooks the vital coastal highway that links Beirut with South Lebanon.

On the other hand, the Palestinians insist that Amal men should not be allowed to regain Maghdousheh since the hilltop position was an excellent base for Amal to shell the Palestinian refugee camp of 'Ain Al Hilweh near Sidon.

The new Palestinian proposal also suggested that "nationalist and Islamic forces" which did not take part in the Amal assault on Palestinian camps in Lebanon could also take control of the coastal highway.

Lebanon's Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) chieftain Walid Junblatt and Communist Party leader George Hawi returned to Damascus on Sunday and were trying to convince both Amal and the Palestinians to accept a temporary ceasefire on all fronts in Lebanon as a prelude to working out a comprehensive military and political accord to govern Lebanese-Palestinian relations.

According to informed sources,

fundamental differences over interpreting the Iranian-sponsored ceasefire were the main cause behind the collapse of the truce on Saturday. While the Palestinians accepted it as a temporary arrangement to pave the way for enhanced political dialogue with the Lebanese, Amal appeared to have taken it as binding on the Palestinians to evacuate Maghdousheh and allow Amal men to redeploy in the hills.

Both Mr. Berri and Palestinian negotiators blamed each other for the collapse of the truce.

In an interview with the Jordan Times, Mr. Berri said his men had adhered to the ceasefire accord but the Palestinians broke it by shelling the predominantly Shiite slums near the Palestinian camps of Shatila and Bourj Al Barajneh in Beirut.

The Palestinians, however, rejected the accusation and said that "from the very beginning, Amal only wanted a temporary respite so that it could reinforce its positions prior to resuming its assaults on our camps."

Salah Khalaf, number two in the Fateh group, was quoted as saying on Saturday that the Amal acceptance of the ceasefire agreement on Friday was only a "show to try and block" a meeting of Arab foreign ministers in Tunis on Monday. The PLO called for the meeting.

The new Palestinian proposals

tabled on Sunday also appeared to signal a fence-mending process among the six PLO factions included in the Palestine National Salvation Front (PNSF).

The factions appeared to have taken conflicting stands over an earlier Syrian-backed proposal for a ceasefire in Lebanon. At least three of the six factions and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) rejected the proposal saying that it was aimed at "eliminating the Fateh presence in Lebanon as the first step towards eliminating the entire Palestinian presence in Lebanon."

Despite their differences with Fateh, all Palestinian factions have joined forces in the camps to fight Amal. Intense consultations among representatives of the various factions and the mediators — Syria, Libya, and Iran — were continuing in the corridors and rooms of the Sheraton hotel here. But, few people appeared to be hopeful of an immediate breakthrough.

"The intensity of the fighting in Lebanon could vary in line with temporary truce and ceasefire agreements," said an analyst. "But a comprehensive military and political agreement would remain elusive as long as the basis for Lebanese-Palestinian relations and the Palestinian military presence is not achieved."

Israel stops short of promising U.S. not to sell arms to Iran

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir exchanged messages with U.S. President Ronald Reagan but stopped short of promising him Israel would not sell weapons to Iran in the future, government officials said Sunday.

The officials said Mr. Reagan told Mr. Shamir in a cable last week the United States had ceased all arms sales to Iran, and implied that he expected Israel to abide by the U.S. embargo.

Mr. Shamir responded that Israel "took note" of the president's position, the officials said on condition of anonymity. On Sunday, Mr. Shamir received another message from U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz.

Mr. Shamir's office said Mr. Shultz expressed hope that Mr.

Shamir would visit the United States in the near future.

Mr. Shultz also said the U.S. investigation of the Iranian arms deal would "in the end strengthen the U.S. position in the world." Mr. Shamir's office quoted the message as saying, "It declined to elaborate."

Israeli arms dealers reportedly began selling weaponry to Iran in 1980, although Israel only became involved last year in the U.S. plan to ship American weapons to Tehran.

Mr. Shamir has said any arms-producing nation must export for its industrial survival, and he has refused to rule out sales to Iran. Israel exports \$1 billion worth of weapons annually.

Iran owns expensive land in Tel Aviv, news 7

Ireland expresses 'grave concern' over killing of soldier in South Lebanon

DUBLIN, Ireland (Agencies) — The government has expressed to Israel its "grave concern" over the shooting death of a 25-year-old Irish soldier with the UNIFIL force in South Lebanon.

The soldier was hit in the head by a bullet from the machine gun of a member of the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia on Saturday, a U.N. spokesman said.

The government identified the victim as Pte. William O'Brien and the Irish army said he was hit by a rocket bullet when the checkpoint at the village of Brashit came under fire. But U.N. Spokesman Timor Goksel said Saturday that he knew of no reason for the shooting. "There was no tension, he just opened fire."

Foreign Minister Peter Barry issued a statement Saturday night saying: "I have through my department conveyed to the Israeli authorities the grave concern of the government at reports that Pte. O'Brien's death resulted from an incident in which a U.N. post was hit by fire from a position held by the so-called South Lebanon Army in association with Israeli defence

force personnel."

"I have also instructed the Irish mission to the U.N. to convey to the U.N. secretary-general our profound concern at this tragic incident."

The nine-nation United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon was deployed in 1978. The 5,800-strong force patrols an area north of the Israeli-designated security zone, 10 to 15 kilometres wide, which serves as a buffer against attacks on Israel's northern border. In places, the U.N. positions are only several metres from the militia positions.

O'Brien, married and the father of a 2-year-old son, is the 20th Irish soldier to die since Irish troops went to Lebanon as part of UNIFIL in 1978.

"This always happens, but today somebody got killed," Goksel said. The soldier died of head wounds in Rambam hospital in Haifa, northern Israel, some two hours after he was shot, Goksel said.

Habre tightens grip as Chad war evolves into fight with Libya

By Charles Lambelin
Reuters

N'DJAMENA — In the four years since President Hissene Habre marched into N'Djamena at the head of his rebel forces, Chad's 30-year-old civil war has evolved from a battle between North and South into a conflict against Libya. Western and African diplomats said.

Mr. Habre has strengthened his grip on his giant land-locked central African country, winning over rebel forces and exiled dissidents, some of whom were given ministerial jobs in last March's government reshuffle, they said.

The great strides made towards national reconciliation have boosted Mr. Habre's domestic and international position, the diplomats said, and he is the undisputed leader south of the 16th parallel, the area protected by French air and land forces.

In contrast, they said, the anti-government camp which has control north of the "red line" appeared to be in disarray following the break between Libya and former President Goukouni Oueddei and the shake-up of his rebel Transitional Government of National Unity (GUNT).

Mr. Habre, an intellectual northerner and military chief who battled his way to power with his well-trained Northern Armed Forces, has proved to be a shrewd politician as well in the last four years.

As early as 1982, after Mr. Goukouni had fled to Algeria and then Libya, Mr. Habre gathered round himself leading southerners like Foreign Minister Gouara Lassou and Minister of State Djindjar Dono Ngardoum who had been Mr. Goukouni's premier.

After starting the reconstruction of war-torn Chad, he took a major step in 1984, disbanding the Northern Armed Forces in favour of a new national party, the National Union for Independence and Reconstruction whose French acronym, UNIR, means to unite.

Veteran fighters from the North wept openly when Mr. Habre scrapped his group but in 1985 two important factions rallied to the government which gradually put down a rural insurrection in the south by the so-called "Codos" guerrillas, armed bands of farmers, army veterans and malcontents.

The first group to go over to the government was the CAC-CDR, a splinter group of the Revolutionary Democratic Council which has its power base among the Arabs from central and eastern Chad and is now the main rebel faction.

The CAC-CDR signed a reconciliation agreement in Libreville, Gabon, and its leading personality, Education Minister Mohamat Senoussi Khatir, told Reuters the government had kept its side of the deal — a promise of a general amnesty and the release of political prisoners.

On Nov. 20, three Fijian soldiers were killed and two wounded when a car bomb exploded in southern Lebanon across from a position manned by the SLA.

Israel withdrew most of its troops from Lebanon in June, 1985, but left several hundred troops behind to patrol a self-declared buffer zone to help the SLA stop cross-border commando attacks.

UNIFIL has suffered 137 fatalities, many in accidents, since it first deployed in Lebanon in 1978. Its 5,800 men are drawn from nine nations — France, Ireland, Sweden, Fiji, Ghana, Norway, Italy, Nepal and Finland.

In Dublin, Irish Defence Minister Paddy O'Toole said Saturday night he would be seeking a full report on the Irish soldier's death when he visits the U.N. peacekeeping force in Lebanon next week.

He said in a statement that he had sent a message of condolence to the family of the soldier. Another message of sympathy was also sent to the bereaved family by Irish opposition leader Charles Haughey.

UAE thanks Iran for rig repair offer

TEHRAN (R) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) Sunday thanked Iran for its offer to help repair a war-damaged rig in Abu Dhabi's offshore Abu Al Bukhoosh oilfield, an Iranian spokesman said.

Eight workers were killed when the rig was hit by missiles on Nov. 25 and oil production, which had been running at 57,000 barrels per day, was halted indefinitely. Iranian Oil Minister Gholamreza Aghazadeh made the help offer last week in a message to his UAE counterpart Sheikh Said Al Oteiba, in which he blamed Iran's Gulf war enemy Iraq for the missile attack.

The UAE has refrained from accusing either side. An Iranian Oil Ministry spokesman told Reuters Mr. Oteiba Sunday sent a telex to Mr. Aghazadeh thanking him for his "brotherly sentiments about the savage attack on Abu Al Bukhoosh oil installations and your offer to help in rebuilding them, on behalf of myself and the government and the people of the UAE."

The November attack was the second on the field in two months. Salvage experts said the earlier one was apparently by Iraqi planes which mistook Abu Al Bukhoosh, 50 per cent owned by a subsidiary of Compagnie Francaise des Petroles, for the adjoining Sassan Field, which belongs to Iran.

IRNA, the Iranian National News Agency, quoted Mr. Oteiba as telling Iran's charge d'affaires in the UAE Saturday that "those who are dissatisfied with (our) two countries' friendship perpetrate such acts."

New Chad opposition leader in Libya

LONDON (R) — Acheikh Ibn Umar, the new leader of Chad's Libyan-backed armed opposition, arrived in Tripoli Saturday night and said the group's ties with Libya would be reassessed, the Libyan News Agency (JANA) reported Sunday.

Mr. Umar told JANA in a statement that his Transitional Government of National Unity (GUNT) had to take major action in wake of recent "internal contradictions" and the departure of its former leader Goukouni Oueddei last month.

He said GUNT had to "rectify the path of the liberation struggle in Chad and ... the historic relations between the fraternal peoples of Libya and Chad in a manner which serves the interests of both revolutions and the cause of freedom in the African continent."

Arab papers call for end to 'camps war'

BAHRAIN (R) — Arab editorial comment on the "camps war" in Lebanon between Palestinians and Shi'ite Amal militiamen shows a widespread feeling that pan-Arab action is needed to stop the bloodshed and to promote a realignment of forces against Israel.

Arab League foreign ministers are scheduled to discuss the issue in Tunis Monday.

A Reuters survey of Middle East newspapers over the past few days also shows a common belief that Israel in the words of the Saudi Arabian daily Al Jazirah "is playing an evil role in fanning the flames of this conflict."

Sharjah's Al Khaleej said in an editorial entitled "The Gums Have Melted": "Bombardment of the camps and attempts to destroy them and remove their arms consciously or unconsciously serves the Zionist enemy and its capacity to liquidate the Palestinian people ... expulsion of (the camps) residents to the unknown cannot be a nationalist or Islamic act."

Bahrain's Akhbar Al Khaleej noted that "massacres committed by Amal against Palestinian refugees coincided with massacres committed by Israeli occupation forces on the West Bank and in Gaza."

It urged Arab states to boost the Palestinians' cause by working to restore unity among their factions.

In Beirut itself, Al Anwar said: "There is a red line in the camps war, known to all sides. It is that the Western World, America and Europe, might allow a Palestinian military return to Lebanon to the extent that it amounts Syria but not Israel."

"The West is against a return that would prompt another Israeli invasion and hence a regional war. This is what draws the lines."

Egypt's Al Akhbar said Arab countries should stop their negative attitudes and take action

to stop this "odious massacre." But Iraq's Al Hawra gave an indication of the divisions which might emerge in Tunis by implying that there was a de facto alliance in Lebanon between Iraq's Gulf war enemy Iran, its ideological foe Syria, and Israel.

"The current tripartite aggression by Amal, Israel and Syria on Palestinian camps aims at liquidating the Palestinian human, political and military existence in Lebanon," it said. It added that the establishment of feeble entities in different parts of Lebanon "serves the common interests of Khomeini, Hafez Assad and the Zionist entity."

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"The current tripartite aggression

NEWS IN BRIEF

King condolences Al Khalil family

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Sunday visited the family of Ahmad Al Khalil to express his condolences on the death of the former member of the Upper House of Parliament. Mr. Khalil died earlier on Sunday at the age of 72. He had held several senior posts in the government and had served in the higher court of justice.

Three die in bus-truck collision

AMMAN (J.T.) — Three people were killed and three others were injured in a road accident which occurred on the Karak-Daba road, south of Amman. The accident involved a pick-up truck heading from Daba to Amman and a public transport bus moving in the opposite direction, according to a report in the local press. The report said that the drivers of both vehicles and an Egyptian passenger in the pick-up truck were killed as a result of the head-on collision. The report said that the three people who were injured were taken to Al Bashir Hospital in Amman for treatment.

Shawwa reviews marketing Gazan crops

AMMAN (Petra) — Former mayor of occupied Gaza Rashad Shawwa on Sunday met with Minister of Agriculture Marwan Hmoud to review the general agricultural situation in the Gaza Strip and the problems which farmers in the area are facing. Mr. Hmoud and Mr. Shawwa also reviewed the Jordanian government's procedures for facilitating the marketing of agricultural crops from the occupied Arab territory in Jordan and in neighbouring Arab countries.

Hamzeh receives memo from WHO

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Health Zaid Hamzeh has received a memo from the World Health Organisation (WHO) director outlining the topics which will be discussed during the meeting of the WHO executive council, scheduled to be held in Geneva on Jan. 12. The memo said that the meeting will discuss the organisation's work over the past year and regional health policies. During the meeting, the council will also distribute WHO awards. Dr. Hamzeh will take part in the meeting in his capacity as president of the World Health Assembly for the present term.

Jordan, S.Korea discuss trade ties

AMMAN (Petra) — A trade delegation from South Korea on Sunday held talks with the president and members of the board of the Amman Chamber of Commerce with whom they reviewed trade relations between Jordan and South Korea and prospects for increasing the volume of exchanged goods between the two countries. The South Korean delegation arrived in Amman on Saturday evening for a visit expected to last several days. They will hold talks on trade and economic cooperation between the two countries and are expected to visit a number of organisations.

Agriculture official leaves for IFAD talks

AMMAN (Petra) — Under Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture Saleh Al Lawzi left for Rome on Sunday to take part in the meetings of governors of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) due to open Tuesday. Dr. Lawzi said that during the five-day meeting, the participants will discuss IFAD's performance in the past year and the loans it will give to finance agricultural projects in developing countries. In addition, he said, they will discuss a general budget for IFAD for the coming year and programmes for extending aid to needy nations.

Local art, folklore to go on display in L.A.

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian embassy in the United States will organise a Jordanian culture and arts day in Los Angeles on Dec. 28. The event will be organised in cooperation with the Arab communities society in North America. The event will include performances by the armed forces musical band, and the Royal Jordanian folk art troupe as well as painting and book exhibitions.

Universities, colleges in occupied territories restricted by Israeli measures, Al Najah president says

AMMAN (J.T.) — Institutes of higher education in the occupied Arab territories are finding it increasingly difficult to provide education to Arab students in view of the repressive measures imposed by the Israeli authorities, President of Al Najah University in Nablus Munther Salah said on Sunday.

He said that the Israeli authorities are continuously blocking Arab students' attempts to acquire higher education, especially those students living in Palestinian areas occupied since 1948.

Dr. Salah outlined these views in a working paper he presented to the second day of a three-day seminar on education through the projected Al Quds Open University (QOU).

Dr. Salah said that the

projected university is bound to provide educational opportunities for thousands of Palestinians and non-Palestinian Arab students, permitting them to contribute towards the development of their countries. This kind of university, he continued, is also bound to contribute towards unifying educational systems in Arab countries. This university can not serve as a substitute for existing universities in the Israeli-held Arab territory but rather it should complement their work. Dr. Salah pointed out.

Dr. Assad Abdul Rahman, director of the Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation, called on Arab countries to extend support to Arab educational institutions under Israeli rule. He said that Arab countries and organisations

should also provide regular training courses to Arab students in the occupied territory. An open university, he said, is the only hope for students who are unable to continue their education at institutes of higher learning inside and outside the occupied Arab land.

President of the projected university, Dr. Walid Kamhawi, said that the seminar is aimed at explaining the concept of education through correspondence to the general public, planners and decision-makers.

According to Dr. Kamhawi, nearly 60,000 students could receive education at the open university by 1991, depending on the availability of financial resources.

Cabinet exempts primary materials from customs

AMMAN (J.T.) — The government has introduced new measures designed to give further protection to local industries, to boost exports and save valuable hard currency.

According to these measures, approved by the Cabinet on Saturday evening, the following primary materials will be exempted from customs duties: flours for chips, handles for cooking pots, paper used in the manufacture of dry batteries and carbon bars used in smelting iron.

The Cabinet also decided to reduce customs duty on semi-manufactured products used in Jordanian industry and these include: essences used in food processing, handles of suitcases and bags, primary materials used in the manufacture of yeast, panels and sheets used in the manufacture of solar heaters, parts used for ovens, fire bricks and gelatinised materials.

The Cabinet decided also to increase custom duties on the following materials: chlorine, suitcases, wooden doors and windows, paper used in the manufacture of tissue paper.

stencil paper, rugs and bed sheets, iron used in the construction of metal beams, cooking stoves, aluminium ladders, metal and wooden furniture, kitchens and prams.

Commenting on the new measures, Director of the Customs Department Adel Qudah said they were intended to help Jordanian industries to compete with foreign goods, especially he said that some foreign made commodities have started to flood Jordan's markets at tempting prices.

Mr. Qudah said that the new measures will benefit Jordanian products and will help Jordanian manufacturers compete with foreign exporters in the Jordanian market. The measures are expected to encourage Jordanians to buy locally-made goods at cheaper prices and this will reduce imports and save much needed foreign currency, Mr. Qudah pointed out.

Mr. Qudah did not disclose the margin of increases on customs duties for foreign made commodities.

Omani minister of industry to visit Jordan early next year

MUSCAT (Petra) — Omani Minister of Industry and Trade Saleh Al Ghazali is due to visit Jordan early next year to discuss promoting Omani-Jordanian trade and economic cooperation. The minister, who was speaking at a meeting with Jordanian ambassador to Oman Nayef Al Hadid, said that his country was keen on developing economic

relations with Jordan in implementation of a bilateral agreement signed by the two countries earlier this year.

Mr. Ghazali said his country welcomes the idea of organising a Jordanian trade fair in Oman and said that the fair would probably be held in the second half of the coming month.

Crown Prince, Sudanese leader review bilateral ties and international issues

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on Sunday conferred with visiting leader of the Sudanese Unionist Democratic Party Mohammad Al Mirghani and the accompanying delegation to review subjects of interest to Jordan and Sudan, bilateral cooperation as well as Arab and international affairs.

Prince Hassan spoke about the challenges facing Jordan as a result of Israel's occupation of the West Bank and he pointed out Jordan's constant endeavours to mobilise Arab and Islamic nations efforts, especially in economic and social fields, to counter these Israeli challenges.

Mr. Mirghani expressed his country's appreciation to Jordan for its relentless efforts in this respect. The meeting at the Royal Court was attended by Chief of the Royal Court Marwan Al Qasem and Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh.

Earlier on Sunday Mr. Mirghani held a meeting with Mr. Akel Al Fayed, speaker of the Lower House of Parliament, in the presence of several deputies and the Sudanese delegation.

Mr. Mirghani said that the Sudanese people appreciate Jordan's constant support and assistance to help them overcome their present ordeal, resulting from famine and drought in the country. Sudan also appreciates Jordan's national stands and constant endeavours in confrontation with Israel because Jordan he said constitutes the key to any military or peaceful solution for the Palestine problem, Mr. Mirghani said. He continued that his visit to Jordan was at the invitation of Prince Hassan and was designed to further cement ties between the two countries.

Mr. Mirghani spoke about the current armed conflict in southern Sudan and expressed hope that it would be settled through peaceful negotiations.

For his part, Mr. Fayed welcomed the Sudanese guests and said that Jordan would continue to extend all possible assistance to the Sudanese people. Mr. Fayed also spoke about Jordan's stand vis-a-vis the Middle East question and reiterated a call for convening an international conference to settle

the issue. He said that Jordan continues to extend help to the people of the occupied Arab territories and plans to implement a five-year development plan for the territories in order to enable the Arab inhabitants there remain steadfast in the face of Israel's arbitrary measures.

Following the speeches, members of the Sudanese delegation and the Lower House of Parliament opened a general discussion covering issues of concern to the Arab Nation.

Also Sunday, Mr. Mirghani and his accompanying delegation visited the tomb of the late King

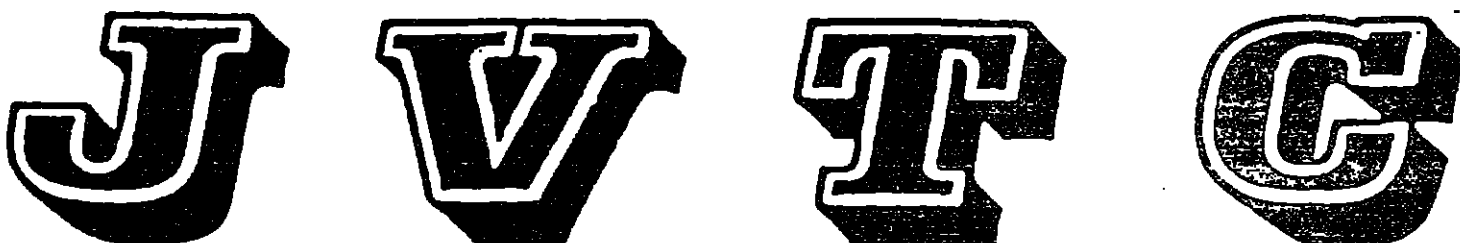
Abdullah, founder of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and later they were guests of honour at a lunch held at Al Hussein Youth City and hosted by Hussein Hassan. Speakers of the Lower and Upper Houses of Parliament, several Cabinet members, senior officials and members of the diplomatic corps attended the luncheon.

Visit to University of Jordan

Also Sunday, Mr. Mirghani visited the University of Jordan and met with its President Abdul Salam Al Majali. During the meeting, Dr. Majali spoke about the university's programmes and projects. Nearly 55 per cent of Jordan's population, Dr. Majali said, acquire post secondary education at community colleges and universities in Jordan or abroad. Later, Dr. Majali accompanied his guest on a tour of various parts of the university and the campus.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on Sunday receives the leader of the Sudanese Unionist Democratic Party, Mr. Mohammad Al Mirghani (centre) and an accompanying delegation at the Royal Court (above). Earlier in the day, Mr. Mirghani visited the tomb of the late King Abdullah where he recited verses from the Koran (below) — Petra photos.



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Following the sun in search of happy and comfortable holidays for the handicapped

By Fred Donovan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — "I just follow the sun," muses Jeff Smith, a 44-year-old British world traveller who doesn't allow his physical handicap to deter him. "I'll drive wherever I can, and write a book about my experiences of travelling in a wheelchair," he says.

Confined to a wheelchair since a car accident broke his neck in 1965, Mr. Smith exudes a determination to persevere, no matter what the obstacle. Since he left England in August 1982 in his "self-contained" van, he has travelled to approximately 50 countries, including most of Europe, West and North Africa, much of the Middle East, and as far East as India.

Mr. Smith arrived in Jordan three weeks ago from Syria, where he found his English citizenship, more than his handicap, to be a major obstacle. By the time Mr. Smith arrived in Syria, the government was not issuing visas to Britons. Luckily, he had already received his visa before the diplomatic fall-out between Syria and Britain.

While in Jordan, Mr. Smith plans to visit hotels and restaurants to see their facilities for the handicapped; he also is visiting the medical facilities that the Jordanian government provides for the physically handicapped. At the moment, he is staying at the Al Hussein Society for the Rehabilitation of the Physically Handicapped.

Travel book

He is gathering this information for a book he plans to write, tentatively titled "So you want to leave the rat race." The book is designed for both the general and the physically impaired traveller. Mr. Smith sees a real need for information on facilities for the handicapped outside the West.



Seasoned traveller Jeff Smith, in his self-contained van, has visited over 50 countries.

"I want to write a book for travellers in wheelchairs, so that other people can go to places and know that there are campsites and hotels that are suitable," he says. "Many companies say it's OK for the handicapped, but all they do is measure the doorway to see that it's wide enough (for a wheelchair)."

Mr. Smith goes on to relate an incident that happened to him in Greece. In 1978, before he began his trek, he decided to travel to Greece. He went through a travel agent who assured him that the hotel he had booked was suitable for a handicapped person.

"There was such a problem. There were steps everywhere," Mr. Smith relates. Once he was helped to his room, he "couldn't go outside." "People were reluctant to help me; they and I feared the insurance problem of injury." He was not able to go outside for his whole stay in Athens. That experience taught him of the need for a comprehensive guide for handicapped traveller, by someone who knows the problem first hand.

Hotel facilities in Jordan

While in Jordan, Mr. Smith is carrying on his research. In his first trip to Jordan, four years ago, he visited the Intercontinental Hotel. Although it has rooms designed for handicapped people, the rails around the tub are too high to be of use, according to Mr. Smith.

During his present visit to Jordan, Mr. Smith has visited the Amra and Marriott hotels. "The Amra hotel was completely unsuitable for the handicapped," he judges. The Marriott, he says, had problems also, but the assistant manager said he would look into constructing suitable rooms. "I was impressed, however, by the number of handicapped people employed by the Marriott," he says.

Mr. Smith is also investigating the medical facilities for handicapped people around the world, especially the spinal centres. He has been impressed by the facilities in the Middle East. "The spinal centres in the Middle East have the best of everything... Kuwait, Bahrain, and Jordan have

good organisations and facilities for handicapped people," he says. He was very impressed with Al Hussein Society in Jordan. "It is large and nice," he said. Mr. Smith noticed that there were mostly children at the centre; he says he thinks there is a need to have facilities for older handicapped people.

In his travels, Mr. Smith has not found too many places he could "not go." "Political things are the only things that stop me," he says. He has run into trouble in crossing the Indian-Pakistan border, the Nigerian border, and travelling through Afghanistan.

The British-born Mr. Smith decided to convert to Islam in 1982. "In private school in England, I had a natural ability for history and geography, especially Middle East history," he relates. This interest in the Middle East led him to visit the region, and eventually to his conversion to Islam.

He says he wants to study the Koran much more. "I read an English translation (of the Koran) from the 7th Century Arabic. It's not easy to understand." "You need to study (the Koran) for a long time," he says.

As part of his conversion, he plans to go to Mecca after his stay in Jordan. "I hope to get my amrah visa to Mecca," he says.

Mr. Smith says that he would appreciate any assistance; he states that he especially in need of tyres for his van.

Correction

In yesterday's issue of the Jordan Times it was incorrectly reported that Deputy Mufeed Al Mubaslat was one of the 15 Lower House of Parliament members who signed a petition demanding a special session to discuss the government's media policy. The 15th deputy who signed the letter was in fact Abdulqader Al Saleh.

Jordan Times

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In case of emergency..

ARAB foreign ministers are expected to hold an emergency meeting today in Tunis to discuss and to hopefully put an end to the fighting between Amal militiamen and Palestinians in and around the Palestinian refugee camps of Shatila, Bourj Al Barajneh and Rashidiyah. The fighting has continued despite all efforts to impose a workable ceasefire on the warring forces.

No doubt, the tasks before the Tunis emergency meeting are formidable and the mission of the foreign ministers appears to be very difficult. Yet, the inter-Arab mission could be rendered possible and within reach if the two forces fighting in the field could just remember and keep in perspective, at all times, that they are first and foremost Arab forces, which once forged a holy alliance to fight off the invading Israeli forces in 1982. No one, least of all the Amal and Palestinian forces, could or should forget the heroic steadfastness that the two Arab forces maintained in the face of the massive Israeli war of aggression against Lebanon.

Even if the alliance between an Amal and Palestinian has turned sour over important issues, such differences must forever remain marginal in view of the greater dangers facing Lebanon, the greatest of which is Israel's continued meddling in Lebanon's domestic affairs and occupation of large parts of Lebanese territory. The massacres committed against the inhabitants of the refugee camps of Sabra and Shatila are still fresh in the minds of all Arabs from the Atlantic to the waters of the Arab Gulf, and never again should the Arab World tolerate another massacre to be committed by one Arab group against another, no matter what the reasons. Perhaps an inter-Arab tribunal could be created to see that Arab blood should no more be spilled by another Arab and that the guilty among us must be brought to book before the tribunal. In order to achieve this purpose, it would be indeed in order if the Arab foreign ministers could invite the representatives of both sides, the Palestinian side as well as the Amal side, to come to Tunis and appear before them for consultation and reconciliation. This would constitute an unprecedented procedure but one must keep in perspective that inter-Arab force should not be so formal as to exclude informal deliberations between brothers. The Arab foreign ministers may or may not have any leverage with the fighting forces in the field, but it is very important to attempt to join the two Arab sides under one Arab umbrella and have them speak their minds in the spirit of true Arabism and brotherly harmony. After all, even United Nations have effective procedures for such an airing of views by the direct non-governmental parties. Without this, the Arab foreign ministers can take only abstract or academic decisions which have no teeth whatsoever.

Today's emergency meeting may prove not only a test of the true spirit and intentions of the Amal and Palestinian leaderships, but also a test of the efficiency and relevance of inter-Arab meetings in times of crisis. In due course, the Arab League would have to create the machinery for dealing with exactly such kind of inter-Arab conflicts and perhaps the Charter of the League could be so amended to accommodate such a mediatory or reconciliatory body.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Rai: Budget based on King's directives

ON Saturday the government presented the 1987 budget to parliament which will now debate it in detail before endorsing it. This draft budget translates the government's policies which are to be implemented in line with the King's directives. For this reason this budget has aimed at achieving the following: mobilising all resources for supporting the armed forces, the shield of the nation against all dangers, developing the public security service; pursuing efforts for enhancing the steadfastness of the Arab people under Israeli occupation; bolstering Jordan's links with Arab countries to strengthen pan-Arab solidarity and further Jordan's image within the international community. Above all, the budget aims at maintaining the momentum for construction and development to fulfill the nation's aspirations. The budget reflects Jordan's self-confidence in the future especially as it has been able to adapt to various situations and economic conditions within the process of development. The Jordanian economic performance was commended by world nations and the Jordanian currency has been maintained in a stable condition despite the fluctuating value of the other currencies, and the Jordanian extratries have continued to send home their savings, thus boosting the country's reserves. However, as the budget pointed out Jordanian citizens are now to rationalise their consumption and increase local production. The government will need this cooperation so as to be able to direct its attention towards resolving the unemployment issue and handling economic problems that may crop up in the course of implementing the new five year plan.

Al Dstour: Budget for economic, social progress

THE main features of the 1987 budget contains the main aspects of those of previous years, and they all reflect the country's drive to achieve economic and social progress. In the new budget, presented to parliament Saturday, the government pledges to boost the might of the armed forces, to support the steadfastness of the Arab population under Israeli occupation, and to strengthen Jordan's ties with other Arab states and further improving Jordan's image abroad. For these to be achieved, the government is determined to minimise public expenditure, rationalise consumption and boost the country's foreign currency power. It also aims at increasing local revenues so as to raise sufficient funds that can finance development projects. The government is in need of funds for implementing the new five year plan and to continue to extend financial help to our brothers in the occupied Arab land. For the first time, the national budget exceeds the one billion dinar mark, and this reflects the government's determination to go ahead with development plans despite the prevailing economic conditions in the Arab region. It also reflects the government's resolute determination to stimulate the national economy through close cooperation with the private sector. Let us hope that the government will overcome all the difficulties, and help the country achieve the aspired level of progress and prosperity.

Sawt Al Shaab: Budget reflects economic strength

THE 1987 budget embodies the aspirations of the Jordanian people for achieving further progress and prosperity. The figures read out to parliament by the finance minister bear positive indications that the national economy is strong and will continue to move ahead with confidence. The budget reflects the government's determination to confront all economic developments and deal with the problem of unemployment and the deficit in the balance of trade. The new five year plan which the government has embarked on, is bound to help fulfil these aspirations and at the same time achieve further economic progress for the country. The budget aims at achieving a balance between spending and income and aims also at boosting the country's productive capacity. These will no doubt create better investment climates and help increase the country's foreign currency reserves. The government, as the budget reveals, is keen on protecting local industries and saving sufficient funds for spending on capital expenses and the implementation of projects. It is also determined to encourage exports and to create incentives for that end. In the new budget the government has defined five aims which it will strive to achieve. These are: to boost the power of the armed forces, support the steadfastness of the Arab people in the occupied land, strengthen Jordan's ties with Arab countries, enhance Jordan's economy, and continue the process of construction and national development.

Key to Middle East solutions lies with Arabs

By Dr. Waleed Sa'di

AS His Majesty King Hussein had stated in his address to the United Nations Committee on Palestinian Rights on the occasion of the annual International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, durable and just peace in our region could only be achieved through a U.N.-sponsored international conference with binding authority to implement U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338. One would have thought that by now there is already a consensus if not unanimity among the international community that an international peace conference offers the most feasible and viable mechanism for negotiations under the auspices of the U.N. given the facts that govern the Palestinian conflict at this point in history. The Arab World has been labouring on the notion all along that the world is on the verge of convening such a conference and all that remained were some minor contentious points related to procedure and preparatory work. In fact, the people of the Middle East were led to believe that an announcement for convening of the peace conference was imminent and could be announced at any minute. To the amazement of all of us, who thought that they understood the game of Middle Eastern politics, the international community is anything but unanimous on the practicality and usefulness of convening such a peace conference. Witness, if you please, the result of the vote taken by the General Assembly of the United Nations on December 4, 1986 on the very subject of preparing the ground work for convening the international peace conference on the Palestinian conflict: 123 votes for, 3 against and 19 abstentions. At first glance, one may construe the result as most promising till one finds out that among the negative votes, there were of course those of Israel and the United States. This reminds me of a folkloric fable to the effect that an unsuccessful suitor bachelor had suddenly and unexpectedly announced to his family and friends that his marriage problem was two-thirds over. When pressed by his astonished family for more information on this happy news, the bachelor explained that what he meant in announcing his impending matrimony is that he had agreed to marry the much sought after beautiful daughter of a local wealthy man and that the neighbourhood sheik has also agreed to perform the marriage ceremony and all that was left was the consent of the hitherto unaware daughter and her father. Otherwise, the bachelor went on to say, everything as you see is two-thirds settled and done with. The moral of this tale is that symbolically of course, Israel stands for the daughter and the U.S. stand for the father of the indifferent and unaware daughter, in the context of the peace conference on the Palestinian conflict.

What has compounded the issue of convening an international peace conference on the Middle East is the abstention vote by 19 influential states which the Arab World had thought of as supportive and understanding of our yearning. Practically all the members of the European Community have noticeably abstained in their vote on this subject with the exception of Greece and Spain. Perhaps U.S. delegate Herbert Okun was trying to sum up for all the countries which cast a negative or abstaining vote when he contended that any such peace conference "would inevitably turn into a propaganda exercise which would heighten tension and retard the search for peace." Of course this U.S. position comes as no surprise to all those who are knowledgeable about the real U.S. stand on the principle of convening an international peace conference to resolve once and for all the Palestinian conflict. His Majesty the King had clearly identified the culprits in this context when he stated in his address to the U.N. Committee that "Israel and its allies continued to impede the U.N. efforts towards securing peace." What is meant by the allies of Israel has been made clearer after the vote on the subject of the

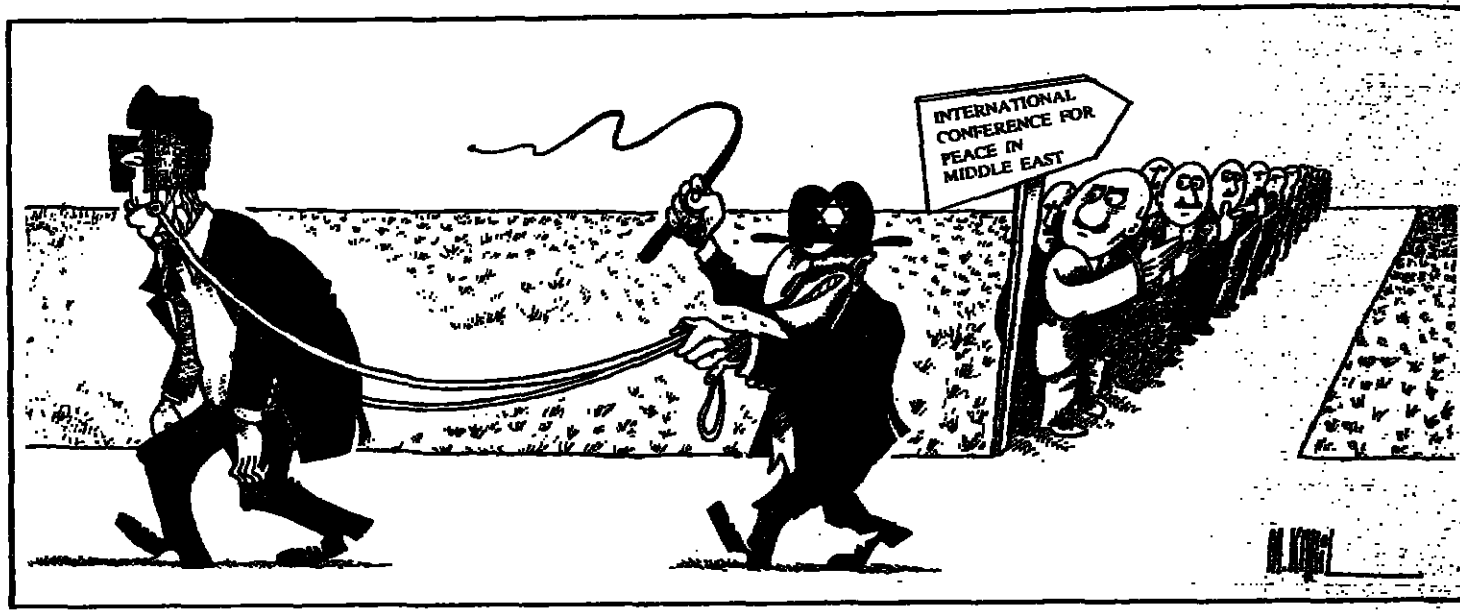
international peace conference was cast. And the end result of the vote is that countries with leverage with Israel have either voted against the principle of convening an international peace conference or have abstained. It is an open question how much, if any, substantive difference remains between a negative vote and an abstention in view of what was proposed for the General Assembly to accept and approve.

This leads me to think it true that holding an international peace conference on the Palestinian conflict provides the most feasible and operational forum to get the parties to the conflict together under the international umbrella for meaningful and perhaps fruitful negotiations. But what I question is why for God's sake the Arab World is short selling this sensible objective by over-riding it. By appearing over zealous and eager to have this conference and by pleading for it on every occasion and at every venue, isn't the Arab World betraying the chances of ever holding it and in effect back staging it in the eyes of the countries that really count in making the conference a success diplomacy? Instead of repeating our past performance on Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, which by the way were so much ruminated to the point of abuse, we in the Arab World would be better advised if we change our orientations and infatuation with words and begin the long and tortuous road of institutional arrangements to make our voices better heard and respected.

Let us hold sacred our declared positions as we hold sacred our words of honour. Instead of asking the U.N. General Assembly to call on the U.N. Security Council to prepare the ground work for the peace conference, why doesn't the Arab World itself prepare the ground work by deeds and actions in order to make the international community including Israel and the U.S. seek us and seek our participation at any peace conference on the Middle East. After all in the final analysis Israel must want the peace conference at least as much as the Arab World wants it before it could stand a reasonable

chance of success. Let us not kid ourselves. The Israelis need peace at least as much as we do in the Arab World not withstanding the outward appearances and facades to the contrary. Therefore, I cannot understand why the Arab governments had allowed themselves to be dragged into the position of taking the initiative in asking the General Assembly of the United Nations to call on the Security Council to prepare the ground work for the international peace conference. In the first place, the Arab delegates to the United Nations know or should have known that influential states are at least divided over the issue of convening the sought after conference and should have, therefore, avoided the embarrassment of adding another shallow resolution to the long list of other shallow resolutions which the Arab representatives accumulate year in and year out. Second, I am not so sure that the General Assembly can from a legal point of view call on the members of the Security Council, whether permanent or otherwise, to prepare the ground work for the peace conference.

It seems to me that the day of reckoning is fast approaching when the Arab governments must take more seriously and pragmatically their options over the avenues open to them in the quest for an honourable solution to the Palestinian conflict. Palliative and disservice machinations, which are in essence non operational, cannot be viable alternatives. Instant and easy solutions to our national challenges are in short supply and the road to salvation and honour, as always, long and tortuous. What the Arab governments have available to them in terms of options in order to energise the Palestinian conflict and enhance the prospects of convening the peace conference, is something that only they can answer. Certainly, institutionalising better relations between the Arab parties which are would-be participants at the peace conference would go a long way to make Israel and its allies listen to our words with more care and attention. Then and only then Israel and her supporters would change course and begin to seek more earnestly the convening of the international peace conference.



Qaboos moulded modern state from medieval one

By William C. Mann
The Associated Press

MUSCAT, Oman — In 16 years, Sultan Qaboos has put Oman firmly on the road from medieval times to the 20th century.

Oman ranked among the world's most backward countries in 1970, when Qaboos Bin Said Al Said led a coup against his father, Sultan Said Bin Taimur. The ousted ruler, then 60, was exiled to England, where he died two years later.

Qaboos, 46, doesn't talk about why he moved against his father. But there's a clue in his campaign to catch up with the rest of the world.

The xenophobic Said, who was sultan for 32 years, had shunned everything Western and modern.

In 1970, there were three schools, two small hospitals, less than 10 kilometres of paved roads and no hotels. Possession of a radio was forbidden and eyeglasses were obtainable only with government permission. The slave trade flourished.

Revenue from oil exports had been pouring since 1967, but it was spent on military hardware or transferred into government bank accounts.

Information Minister Sayyid Badr Bin Said said in a recent interview with the Associated Press that Oman was "a closed book to the outside world" until Qaboos' coup.

"There was no hope for tomorrow. You could be dead sure that today would be just like tomorrow and the next day more of the same," he said.

Qaboos, who also is imam, Oman's highest religious official,

holds absolute power in religion and politics in the country.

Oman, a nation of 1.5 million, is about the size of New Zealand and, after Saudi Arabia is the second-largest country on the Arab peninsula.

At a time when only 909 boys were enrolled in the country's three primary schools, Sultan Said sent his son to England for his education.

His education included two years at the Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst and a brief stint at Cambridge.

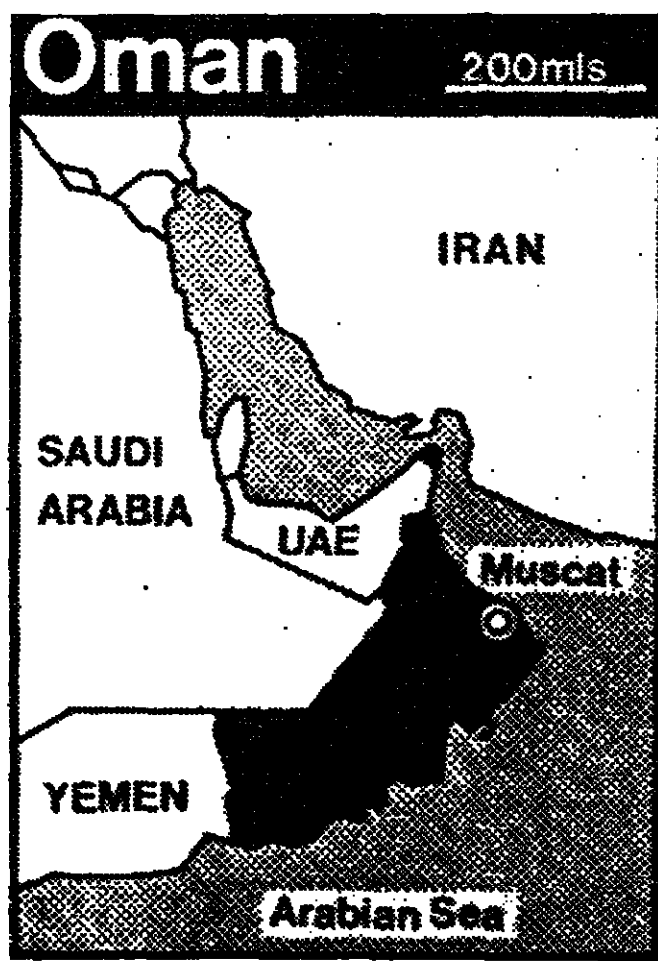
After a three-month world tour, the 24-year-old prince returned to five years of virtual house arrest at a royal palace in southern Oman. He studied Islam under the chief Justice, who as in most traditional Muslim societies was also a religious scholar.

After the coup, Qaboos, now 46, began reshaping Omani society immediately after the coup. His first step was to ask citizens who had fled Oman to return home and help.

"That was the electrifying message," Sayyid said. "Omanis who had been away 20 or 25 years came back, but they had difficulties."

"It was not a question of where to start but how to start, because everything needed to be done. The country turned into a big workshop.... We were lucky because we had the nest egg of the oil revenue in banks to help out."

Oman began selling oil in 1967. By 1985, it was producing 500,000 to 550,000 barrels a day. Although the current oil glut has cut revenues, Oman had managed to raise its per capita income from \$100 before the boom to \$4,000



by 1985.

Pre-fabricated schools were imported, and girls were admitted for the first time. Text clinics were installed around the country. By 1975, Qaboos had ended a rebellion in southern Oman, the insurgents apparently convinced that he was different from his father.

"The first five years was a crash programme, the information minister said. "It was like first aid for the society."

Starting in 1976, the government introduced the first of its five-year development plans. As the second ended last year, most goals had been met:

— For the first time, paved roads connected the northern and southern ends of Oman.

— There were more than 325 primary schools, 213 preparatory (middle) schools and 49 secondary (high) schools with 218,914 pupils. 42 per cent of them girls. Co-educational classes began last September at the ultramodern Sultan Qaboos University, the country's first.

— A network of 40 hospitals and 75 health centres was established, with 2,877 beds, 635 doctors and 2,249 nurses. The 630-bed royal hospital, packed with the latest medical equipment, opens next year.

— Two newly-built seaports and airports were thriving.

He acts as his own prime minister, and also leads the foreign and defence ministries. A workaholic, he often holds court for advisers and ministers late into the night.

Divorced and without children, Qaboos lives in elegance.

Thousands of inland mirrors cover walls and ceilings of the foyer and cavernous main sitting room of Al Ayam, the royal palace. One end of the sitting room is dominated by the royal insignia, crossed swords behind a khunjar, a curved dagger unique to Oman.

He nonetheless carefully cultivates an image as a man of the people.

Despite the Western slant of his reign, Qaboos never wears foreign dress in Oman, opting instead for the massar, or royal turban, and the formal Omani robe called a dish-dash. At military functions, he wears his army uniform and rust-coloured beret of the royal



Sultan Qaboos

guard brigade.

Qaboos also is known among his subjects for his generosity, a common trait in Omani culture.

A British adviser to one of Qaboos' ministers tells of an incident in which the sultan, driving alone, as he often does, on a rural Omani road, stopped his land-rover to pick up an old man waving for a ride. The man did not recognise the driver.

During the ride, the man mentioned that he had lost several goats but that otherwise things were all right. At the end of the ride he got out and offered the driver the equivalent of 70 U.S. cents. Qaboos refused.

"Listen, you're still young, and you'd better earn all the money you can while you can," the man said, and Qaboos took his money.

The next day the man was summoned to the royal court, ostensibly because he had spoken sharply to the monarch.

Quavering, he approached the smiling Qaboos—who handed him 1,000 rials (\$3,800), and told him to buy himself some goats.

Gandhi buys time but no solutions with soldiers in Punjab

By John Battenfeld
Reuters

NEW DELHI — Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi is running out of time and possibilities as his government gropes for a solution to Sikh separatist violence in the strategic northern state of Punjab.

The violence that has taken the life of his mother, a former army chief of staff and nearly 650 people so far this year in Punjab shows no sign of abating and, in the minds of diplomats and other observers, remains India's — and Gandhi's — most immediate political crisis.

Gandhi has staked much prestige and expended much political capital on the search for a thus far elusive resolution of the Punjab crisis, sparked by extremists seeking the independent Sikh Homeland called "Khalistan," the land of the pure.

But he increasingly has been made captive to the fumbblings of

the faltering government of Punjab's moderate Sikh Chief Minister Surjit Singh Barnala as well as the ability of a small number of separatists to commit spectacular acts of violence that enrage Hindus and make accommodations less likely.

Last Sunday four militants massacred 24 Hindu bus passengers in Punjab. That act set off widespread anti-Sikh riots and led to calls for action by militant Hindus, opposition politicians and even backbenchers from Gandhi's own party.

Diplomats believe his government only gained time on Dec. 3 by calling on the army to help the state's hard-pressed police contain the violence.

"But it's just time and that's all," said a Western diplomat.

He noted that Gandhi's government had few options left in its effort to reconcile a deeply felt Sikh nationalism with the wider concept of Indian unity in a manner acceptable to Sikhs and the majority Hindu community.

"He has very few choices — he's really in a squeeze," the diplomat said.

In the short term, he and other observers said, Gandhi apparently will try to shore up the Barnala government. A report in Dec. 4 Chandigarh Tribune newspaper published in Punjab said Gandhi turned down Barnala's proffered resignation at a recent meeting in New Delhi.

But the Barnala government apparently has lost its majority in the state assembly through defections and could lose a vote of confidence later this month without opposition support.

That would keep Barnala's Akali Dal Party in power but could fatally weaken what remains of his Sikh nationalist credentials, diplomats said.

Reconciliation with dissident Akali Dal factions now seems out of the question since Barnala jalled most of their leaders earlier this week in an anti-extremist crackdown.

Gandhi also could impose, once

again, direct rule from New Delhi which observers termed politically unpalatable as well as a setback in the pacification of the Punjab.

"There isn't much else," the

diplomat said.

Other observers are less sanguine and many fear use of the army in the prosperous farming state will further alienate Sikhs and make an eventual solution less likely.

Punjab governor S.S. Ray, chief representative of the central government in the state, on Dec. 3 called out the army to assist the 55,000 state police and central paramilitary forces already on duty.

Diplomatic and other observers considered the move more drastic than anything else.

Gandhi's mother, Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, called out the army in Punjab in 1984 to quell Sikh extremism after her policies of divide-and-rule among Sikh factions failed and direct rule from New Delhi was imposed.

"The saving grace, though, may be that India has this extraordinary capacity to absorb these crises and carry on somehow," he said.

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In June 1984 the army assaulted the Sikhs' holiest shrine, the Golden Temple in Amritsar, in a flush outarmed extremists. About 1,000 people died in the battle, which shocked and alienated many of India's 16 million Sikhs.

The assault, code-named "Operation Blue Star," planted a time-bomb in Indian society. In November 1984, Mrs. Gandhi was shot dead by her Sikh bodyguards. Last August retired General A.S. Vaidya, who commanded the army during Blue Star, was assassinated in Poona.

This time, the diplomats said, there appeared little effective action that the army could take aside from symbolic shows of strength.

Operation Wood Rose, a series of army searches and raids against that followed Bhindranagar, served only to alienate the Punjab population and send young Sikh radicals across the border into Pakistan — and the violence continued.

1987 budget reflects government keenness to accelerate development

By Samir Ghawi
Special to the Jordan Times

The following is part I of a two-part article detailing the allocations given to various ministries under the new 1987 draft budget that was presented to Parliament on Saturday by the Minister of Finance. Part II will appear in Tuesday's issue of the Jordan Times.

AMMAN — The budget was allocated among nine sectors, namely: Central administration, defence, security and internal order, international affairs, financial administration, economic development services, social services, cultural and information services, and communications and transport services.

General administration

The total spending in this sector was projected at JD 7,945 million, JD 326,000 and JD 2,473 million above 1986 and 1985 reestimates respectively.

The Royal Court was allocated JD 5.4 million, the Parliament JD 1,036 million, the Prime Ministry JD 0.6 million, the Audit Bureau JD 637,000 and the Civil Service Commission JD 272,000.

No capital spending was projected for any of the sections under the general administration sector. However, the aforementioned recurrent expenditures compared with 1986 and 1985 reestimates are as follows:

- 1) JD 29,000 and JD 1,760 million increases for the Royal Court;
- 2) JD 192,000 and JD 464,000 increases for the Parliament;
- 3) JD 53,000 and JD 92,000 increases for the Prime Ministry;
- 4) JD 44,000 and JD 87,000 increases for the Audit Bureau;
- 5) JD 8,000 and JD 70,000 increases for the Civil Service Commission.

The total spending in this sector represents nearly 0.8 per cent of the budget.

Defence

Only classified as recurrent expenditures, defence was allocated a total of JD 209 million, unchanged from 1986 reestimate but JD 20 million higher than that of 1985.

Under this sector and included in the total figures, JD 725,000 was earmarked for the Special Communications Corporation compared to JD 800,000 and JD 800,000 respectively for 1986 and 1985.

Defence represents nearly 0.5 per cent of the total budget.

Security and internal order

A total of JD 1,666 million was projected for the Ministry of Interior spending. Recurrent spending was estimated at JD 1,187 million including a participation of JD 75,900 to the Riyadh-based Centre for Security Studies and Training and to the Council of Arab Interior Ministers.

The recurrent expenditure was JD 60,000 down from 1986 reestimate but up JD 243,000 from 1985.

Capital spending for the Ministry of Interior was projected at JD 479,000, out of which JD 420,000 was classified as developmental and JD 59,000 as ordinary. The major item in this area was JD 400,000 to complete a governorate and district-governorate buildings in Tafila, Karak, Madaba and Ajlun.

Other sections under the security and internal order sector were the Public Security Department, Civil Defence Department, General Passports Department, Civil Registration Department, Ministry of Justice and the Chief Islamic Judge Department.

The Public Security Department was allocated JD 40,110 million in recurrent spending, a hike of JD 2,860 million over 1986 reestimate and JD 9 million over 1985. Capital expenditure, described as ordinary, was projected at JD 6,353 million and includes JD 4,770 million for the purchase of weapons, ammunition, telecommunication equipment, other apparatus and to repay instalments falling due on contracts signed in 1986. The remaining JD 1,583 million was earmarked for construction of various police stations, border posts, prisons and for land

among the various categories constituting the recurrent spending of the Ministry of Finance, is JD 67,235 million as interest on local and foreign loans, amounting to JD 23 million and JD 44,235 million respectively.

By contrast, reestimated figures for 1986 and 1985 budgets stood at JD 21,500 million and JD 17,800 million for interest on local loans while for foreign loans the interest was reestimated at JD 39.6 million and JD 34.2 million respectively.

Under the subheading "remunerations and support," the Ministry of Finance, was apportioned JD 65,026 million of which JD 47 million was earmarked for Pension Fund spending and other reimbursements.

For the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, JD 7,500 million was set aside while JD 3 million was apportioned for each of the Amman Municipality and the National Aid Fund. 19 other organisations were allocated JD 5 million.

The "remunerations and support" subheading totalled JD 62,946 million and JD 57,807 million under 1986 and 1985 reestimates respectively.

Under the subheading "emergency spending," JD 8 million was earmarked for refugee relief and steadfastness support (JD 3 million), for subsidies on basic agricultural products (JD 4 million) and for other extraordinary unforeseen outlays (1 million).

Under capital spending, JD 62,037 million was allocated to repay loan instalments falling due to 29 governments, Arab and international funds. Major creditors include Britain, France, Kuwait, the U.S., Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Japan, Italy, the Arab Monetary Fund, the Arab Bank (London), Union de Banque Arabe et Francaise (UBAF), the OPEC Fund, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the Arab Bank (Bahrain), the International Development Association (IDA) and the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development.

Repayments for 1986 and 1985 were reestimated at JD 48,421 million and JD 27,965 million respectively.

Another JD 4,037 million of repayments will take place next year under loans classified as "commercial" — being owed to private foreign companies.

On local credits, JD 34,923 million will fall due in 1987. JD 16,500 million will repay holders of development (treasury) bonds. JD 8 million will settle part of a loan granted by the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company and JD 5,015 will be instalment payments to the Housing Bank. Another JD 5,408 million will be discussed in repayment of other obligations.

Local debt repayment in 1986 was reestimated at JD 83,715 million while for 1985 it was reestimated at JD 9,409 million. No explanation was given for the rise in 1986 figure.

In an appendix to the budget, a table shows that as of Oct. 31, 1986, Jordan's net foreign debt stood at JD 817,892 million. 35 creditors (government, banks and funds) have extended Jordan credit lines totalling JD 1,180 billion of which only JD 961,280 million has been drawn (or utilised) while JD 143,388 million has already been repaid.

The largest foreign creditor is the U.S. with total outstanding figure of JD 86,052 million followed by IDA (JD 85,968 million), Kuwait (JD 72,841 million), Saudi Arabia (JD 70,716 million), Arab Bank Bahrain (JD 57,854 million) and Japan (JD 51,755 million).

Allocations for the Ministry of Finance capital spending include JD 4 million to be disbursed for land appropriations and JD 10 million for investments in projects in the occupied territories.

Reestimated expenditures for the aforementioned two areas during 1986 and 1985 stand at JD 13 million and JD 1,400 million respectively.

Total amount for local investments and loans was estimated at JD 41,350 million, down JD 18,150 million from this year and JD 4,037 million from 1985.

In some detail, local investments in public institutions

namely: The Housing Corporation, the Aqaba Railway Corporation, the Jordan National Geographic Centre, the Vocational Training Centre and the Aqaba Region Authority were budgeted at JD 4,750 million while JD 9,500 million and JD 11 million were set aside for Jordanian universities and the Water Authority respectively.

Investments in various companies were estimated at JD 4 million, compared to JD 16 million according to 1986 reestimate (JD 4,460 million in 1985).

The Jordan Cement Factories will receive JD 12 million in loans compared to JD 6 million in 1986.

As for other departments, falling under the finance administration sector, the following amounts were allocated:

- a) Only recurrent spending of JD 135,000 was budgeted for the Budget Department.
- b) Only recurrent spending of JD 972,000 was earmarked for the General Purchases Department. JD 470,000 of this amount is related to items for the Traffic Department's use. This year's figure amounted to JD 654,000.

c) The Customs Department's recurrent spending was estimated at JD 2,520 million, up about JD 3,000 on this year's figure.

Capital expenditure was envisaged at JD 900,000, JD 590,000 of which to go for expanding and maintaining border posts and the balance for various purchases and modernisation and upgrading of existing assets. This year's reestimated spending was JD 428,000.

d) The Land and Survey Department was allocated JD 2 million (nearly unchanged from 1986) for recurrent expenditures and JD 230,000 for capital spending (also nearly unchanged from this year's figure). JD 140,000 of the amount in the capital part will finance modernisation and expansion programmes.

e) The Income Tax Department was appropriated JD 1,899 million for recurrent expenditures, JD 91,000 less than 1986 and JD 180,000 down from 1985 reestimates. Capital spending of JD 97,000 was mainly for employees' housing scheme.

Communication and transportation services

This sector, which was allocated a total of JD 32,918 million, groups the Ministry of Communications, the Ministry of Transport, the Telecommunications Corporation, the Civil Aviation Authority and the Meteorology Department.

Recurrent spending for the Ministry of Communications amount to JD 3,987 million, up JD 161,000 from 1986 and JD 349,000 higher than 1985. Capital spending was budgeted at JD 560,000, JD 17,000 less than the 1986 reestimate but JD 222,000 above 1985 allocation.

Construction of new post offices under the capital expenditure would amount to JD 202,000 while studies and research programmes would cost JD 112,000 and various purchases of equipment, cars and apparatuses would total JD 125,000.

The Telecommunications Corporation was allocated JD 8,936 million for recurrent spending and JD 6,600 million for capital (developmental and ordinary) expenditure.

The recurrent part was higher by JD 181,000 and JD 1,361 million than the 1986 and 1985 figures respectively.

The capital expenditures comprised mainly the following:

- a) JD 4,460 million to purchase equipment for network, switchboard and microwave projects;
- b) JD 615,000 to purchase cars, facsimily equipment and spare parts;
- c) JD 200,000, for consultancy services to privatise the corporation;
- d) JD 75,000 for salaries of experts, technicians and others working in various projects;
- e) JD 200,000 for construction of offices;
- f) JD 240,000 for printing a new telephone directory.

The capital part for 1987 was JD 2,250 million above the 1986 reestimate.



Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and members of the Cabinet attend Saturday's session of the Lower House of Parliament during which the draft budget was presented (Petra photo).



Minister of Finance Hanna Odeh presents Jordan's JD 1.018 billion draft budget for 1987 to the Lower House of Parliament (Photo Youssef Al-Arian).

The Ministry of Transport spending was projected at JD 147,000 and JD 3 million for recurrent and capital spending respectively.

The recurrent part was nearly unchanged from this year's amount but the capital part was up about JD 600,000 over 1986 and JD 2 million above 1985 reestimates.

Solely earmarked for Queen Alia International Airport, JD 2,344 million will go for various construction schemes while JD 250,000 will go for purchasing equipment and JD 250,000 for research and studies.

The Department of Meteorology was allocated JD 610,000 and JD 94,000 for recurrent and capital expenditures respectively.

For 1986 and 1985 the recurrent part was JD 580,000 and JD 543,000 while there was no capital spending during this year. The amount for 1987 will be mainly for purchases of equipment and modernisation programmes.

The Civil Aviation Authority was appropriated JD 5,484 million for recurrent spending, JD 20,000 higher than 1986 reestimate and JD 368,000 over 1985 figure.

For capital spending amounting to JD 3,500 million, JD 2,507 million was allocated for purchases of aviation equipment, spare parts, cars and other machinery. JD 572,000 for construction purposes, JD 80,000 to repay loans and other financial obligations and JD 281,000 for training and consultancy services.

The capital spending in 1987 is more than double the amount for 1986 which was in turn double the 1985 figure.

The communication and transportation services accounted for 3.2 per cent of the total budget.

Cultural and information services

This sector, which was allocated a total of JD 13,716 million, groups the Ministry of Information, Jordan Radio and Television Corporation, Press and Publication Department, Jordan News Agency, Youth Care Organisation, Arts and Culture Department, Archaeology Department and Libraries Department.

The Ministry of Information had only a recurrent spending of JD 686,000 slightly upon this year's total. Included in the figures was a JD 4,500,000 "miscellaneous" amount apportioned to the information office in Washington (JD 290,000). Developmental Information Directorate (JD 50,000) and others. However, the total amount in previous years for "miscellaneous" was JD 470,000 and JD 482,000.

The Jordan Radio and Television Corporation was allocated JD 6,456 million for recurrent spending and JD 2,500 million for capital (developmental and ordinary) expenditures.

Recurrent expenditure for the radio station was JD 2,041 million, JD 36,000 down from 1986 but JD 166,000 up from 1985. Participation or share contribution to international news agencies was estimated at JD 71,000 down from JD 111,000. The amount in 1985 was reestimated at JD 67,000.

Recurrent spending for the Jordan Television was estimated at JD 4,247 million, up JD 243,000 from 1986 and JD 299,000 from 1985. Participation or share contribution to international news organisations was JD 200,000, nearly 3.5 times as much as the 1986 amount.

For the commercial section of the Jordan Radio and Television Corporation, the recurrent spending was set at JD 168,000.

The capital expenditure, meanwhile, was appropriated as follows:

- a) JD 1,259 million for the radio station. JD 515,000 of the amount will be for purchasing equipment, JD 694,000 will go for connecting power to the new broadcasting station near Qasr Al Khazaneh and JD 50,000 for research and studies.

The 1986 capital expenditure for the radio station was JD 833,000 while in 1985 the reestimate stood at JD 167,000.

b) JD 788,000 will finance the television station's purchases of equipment, cars and machinery while JD 453,000 will finance some construction costs.

The Press and Publication Department was allocated JD 162,000 in recurrent spending. The figure for 1986 and 1985 was JD 148,000 and JD 134,000 respectively.

The Jordan News Agency was estimated to spend JD 420,000 (recurrent) and JD 83,000 (capital). The recurrent spending was higher than the JD 393,000 and JD 366,000 allocations for 1986 and 1985.

Capital expenditure was all

earmarked for purchase of equipment and cars. There was no capital spending in previous years.

The Youth Care Organisation was budgeted JD 1,140 million for recurrent spending and JD 1 million for developmental and ordinary capital expenditures.

Recurrent spending was broken down to the following areas:

- a) JD 489,000 for "youth and sports." Included in the amount was JD 180,000 contribution to support overseas Jordanian youth clubs and centres. The contribution was in line with the reestimated amount for 1985 but down about JD 10,000 from 1986. Yet, the total under this category was up JD 9,000 from 1986 and JD 42,000 from 1985.

b) JD 426,000 was allocated to Al Hussein Youth City. JD 23,000 up from 1986 and JD 33,000 up from 1985.

c) JD 225,000 was set aside for the Royal Cultural Centre, nearly JD 32,000 higher than 1986 and 1985 reestimates.

As a whole, the Youth Care Organisation had JD 54,000 in recurrent outlays than in 1986 and JD 109,000 than in 1985.

In capital expenditure, the Al Hussein Youth City was allocated JD 400,000 mainly for maintenance of various facilities

and for furnishing the Palace of Culture. JD 396,000 was appropriated for "youth and sports" mainly to construct various sports facilities.

The Arts and Culture Department was only allocated JD 230,000 for recurrent spending. The figures for 1986 and 1985 were JD 185,000 and JD 207,000 respectively.

The Documentation and Libraries Department was also allocated recurrent spending only. Estimated at JD 85,000, the amount was JD 4,000 higher than 1986 reestimate (same difference over 1985).

The Department of Archaeology was appropriated JD 466,000 for recurrent spending and JD 488,000 for developmental capital expenditure. The figures compared with JD 427,000 and JD 399,000 for 1986 and 1985 for the recurrent part and JD 452,000 and JD 412,000 for the capital part.

JD 433,000 in capital spending will finance maintenance, excavations and repatriation of archaeological sites while JD 45,000 will finance purchases of archaeological pieces.

The cultural and information services accounted for 1.3 per cent of the total budget.

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U.S.A. undermines Britain's America's Cup chances

FREMANTLE, Australia (R) — California's U.S.A. seriously undermined Britain's prospects of making the America's Cup semifinals with a stunning three-second victory Sunday over White Crusader. Both yachts are protesting the result.

White Crusader has made two protests. One is under rules governing right of way and the other covers the intrusion of support craft on the course.

The jury hearing the case may not hand down its decision before Monday. U.S.A. crossed the line with a protest flag flying but did not formally lodge a complaint.

Though it is still statistically possible for the British yacht to pull itself into one of the four semifinal berths in the last six races of the series it faces at least three tough races — against New Zealand, Stars and Stripes and America II.

The result leaves White Crusader fifth, equal with Tom Blackaller's U.S.A., a position the pair have often shared in the past two months' racing.

Blackaller also has a demanding run towards the semifinals later this month still having to meet the

same three tough competitors plus third-placed French Kiss which Sunday lost to New Zealand.

America II was lucky to climb back into fourth position when Italia retired with gear problems while 30 seconds behind and closing in at the seventh mark on the eight-leg 24.5 nautical mile full America's Cup course.

Still reeling from defeats by Heart of America, Stars and Stripes and French Kiss America II led by just nine seconds at the second mark.

The New York Yacht Club entrant has fitted a new mast in a desperate bid to improve its performance and it, too, has some tough races to go against New Zealand, U.S.A. and White Crusader.

New Zealand, beaten only once in 28 races, easily disposed of French Kiss. The winning margin was four minutes 43 seconds.

Though the French experienced rigging problems on the final leg, the race was already lost to the New Zealanders who led by more than a minute and a half at the seventh mark.

In the race of the day White Crusader led U.S.A. around all marks by no more than 55 seconds. Fierce tacking duels on the upwind beat and aggressive spinnaker runs yielded at least one protest per boat.

On the final beat to the line U.S.A. took the lead in a tacking duel and try as Britain's Harold Cudmore might Blackaller kept him covered to nose U.S.A. across the line first.

In the races to select a cup defender, Australia IV enjoyed a comfortable win over the improving Sydney yacht Steak 'n' Kidney while Kookaburra III had a predictable victory over stablemate Kookaburra II.

It was the first defender race without South Australia which Sunday officially announced its withdrawal saying the yacht was uncompetitive and that the syndicate's efforts and manpower were better directed at more likely defenders.

Manchester, Tottenham draw in six goal thriller

MANCHESTER, England (AP) — Peter Davenport slotted home an 89th-minute penalty to earn struggling Manchester United a precious point in a thrilling 3-3 draw against Tottenham Hotspur in a nationally televised English First Division soccer match Sunday.

Davenport's point-saver was the final goalmouth action in a seesaw game that United dominated in the first half, taking a 2-0 lead despite losing centreback Paul McGrath with a twisted knee and having to play Frank Stapleton, a natural striker, at central defence.

But when Tottenham manager David Pleat changed his team's pattern of play, taking off Osvaldo Ardiles, sending on Danny Thomas and moving Paul Allan into midfield, the visitors suddenly took control and scored three times in 16 minutes to go 3-2 in front.

Tottenham had the better of the early stages and ace marksman Clive Allen hit a post in the first minute.

But after 12 minutes, Northern Ireland international midfielder Norman Whiteside, pushed into a

striking role on his return to the United side, opened the score following a neat set piece.

United defender Kevin Moran missed an open goal to add to the score but in the 36th minute, Davenport was on target, robbing Paul Allen of the ball and shooting from an acute angle past Clemence.

In its bid to contain United, Tottenham had four players booked, Paul Allen, Graham Roberts, Tony Galvin and Ardiles, and looked a demoralised team at half-time.

But 12 minutes into the second half, Gary Mabbutt powered home a superb header from Glenn Hoddle's corner and suddenly the game was transformed.

Two minutes later, Tottenham levelled when Moran sliced the ball into his own net trying to clear and 17 minutes from the end, Clive Allen, the First Division's leading scorer, headed in bravely from Chris Waddle's superbly controlled centre.

The result kept Tottenham in mid-table but moved United above Aston Villa, Charlton and Newcastle on goal difference to seventh from bottom of the table.

Swiss wins world cup slalom race

WATERVILLE VALLEY, New Hampshire (AP) — Vreni Schneider of Switzerland recorded the two fastest runs of the day to dominate a women's World Cup giant slalom ski race.

Schneider, the defending World Cup giant slalom champion, won her fourth career race Saturday by 2.18 seconds. That was even better than her performance last season, when she won Waterville's giant slalom by 1.73 seconds.

Schneider all but wrapped up the race after a morning run of 1 minute, 11.39 seconds that gave her a 1.02-second lead. Then she blistered the afternoon run in 1:13.53 for an aggregate time of 2:24.92.

Schneider's teammate, defending World Cup overall champion Maria Walliser, was a distant second in 2:27.10, while Josee Lacasse of Canada, who was closest to Schneider in the morning competition, held on for third, 31 seconds behind Walliser.

Christelle Guignard of France, returning after a year off because of injury, used the second-fastest afternoon run — 1:13.62 — to improve 10 spots and finish fourth overall in 2:27.89.

Erika Hess, Switzerland's two-time world cup overall champion, was fifth, 3.16 seconds back, to pad her lead in the overall standings. She has 51 points to Schneider's 46.

Blanca Fernandez-Ochoa of Spain was sixth, followed by Cecilia Lucco of Italy, Corinne Schmidhauser of Switzerland, Anne-Flore Rey of France and, in 10th, Switzerland's Monika Hess, the cousin of Erika Hess.

Dynamo Kiev retains title

MOSCOW (R) — Dynamo Kiev, one of the strongest club sides in Europe, retained its Soviet First Division soccer title Sunday when it defeated an inexperienced Dynamo Moscow 2-1.

In a nail-biting finale to the Soviet season, Vasily Rats and Igor Belanov scored first half goals which brought the win the Ukrainian team needed to overhaul Dynamo Moscow in the league table.

Dynamo Kiev, who forms the backbone of the Soviet Union's national team and who won last year's European Cup Winners' Cup, finished the season with 39 points from 30 games, one point more than the Muscovites.

The teams had identical records of 14 wins, 11 draws and five losses, but a special rule introduced for the 1986 season ensured Dynamo Kiev kept its title.

E.Germans win bobsled race

Under the Soviet system, a team does not score a point for a draw once it has drawn 10 games in a season. But Dynamo Kiev was exempted from this rule as it supplied so many players for the Soviet side at this summer's World Cup in Mexico.

Midfielder Rats put Dynamo Kiev ahead in the 15th minute when he was set free in the penalty area. And striker Belanov added a second from the penalty spot in the 36th after Anatoly Demayayenko was brought down.

An up-and-coming Dynamo Moscow star, 19-year-old striker Igor Kolyanov, pulled a goal back in the 56th minute.

The victory was a personal triumph for Dynamo Kiev coach Valery Lobanovsky, who took on a second job as national coach just before the World Cup and won praise for the attacking style the Soviet team adopted in Mexico.

England leads Victoria

MELBOURNE (R) — England's late-order batsmen put its side on top on the second day of the four-day match against Victoria Sunday.

The last four wickets added 135 runs in an England total of 263 to give the touring team a first innings lead of 162, although Victoria went some way to redressing the balance by making 56 for no wicket by the close.

England, 128 for six overnight, wasted no time when play resumed Sunday morning.

Allan Lamb, batting at number eight after suffering a stomach virus Saturday, cracked 46 in 107 minutes with 10 fours and looks likely to retain his test place after

the failure of James Whitaker Saturday.

Wicketkeeper Bruce French was also in good form, hitting 58 in 132 minutes with six fours and Neil Foster thrashed an unbeaten 46 off only 44 balls with eight boundaries. The seam bowlers again dominated on a pitch with plenty of life, Tony Dodemaide returning the best figures of four for 76.

Rain delayed the start of Victoria's second innings for nearly three hours and when play finally resumed Dav Whatmore and Dodemaide showed plenty of application against the England pace attack on Foster and Gladstone Small.

Choi takes IBF title

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Bouncing back after a fifth-round knockdown, Choi Chom-Hwan scored a unanimous decision over fellow South Korean Park Cho-Un Sunday to win the International Boxing Federation light-flyweight title.

It had been vacant since July, when Dodie Penolosa of the Philippines renounced it for an unsuccessful challenge against World Boxing Association flyweight champion Hilario Zapata of Panama.

The 23-year-old switch boxer won in his second crack at the IBF title. In November 1984, he lost to Penolosa by a decision in Manila.

For the first time in its pro boxing history, South Korea now has the titles in the lightest weight class of all three world boxing organisations — the IBF, WBA and the World Boxing Council.

Chang Jung-Koo is the WBC champion and Yu Myong-Woo the WBA champion.

In Sunday's nationally televised

Alen widens lead in rally

TUMWATER, Washington (R) — Finnish driver Markku Alen increased his lead Sunday over compatriot Juha Kankkunen in the second leg of the Olympus Rally.

Alen, driving a Lancia Delta S-4, now leads Kankkunen, in a Peugeot, by one minute 32 seconds as they prepare for the last leg of the final event in the World Rally Drivers' Championship.

Alen's Lancia raced through the forest of Washington state at an

average speed of 102.19 kph while Kankkunen was hampered by technical problems. American John Buffum maintained his hold on third place in an Audi Quattro Sport.

New Zealander Steve Miller emerged unharmed after rolling his Toyota early on in the 380-kilometre second leg.

His brother Rod Miller continues to lead the Group A category (modified production cars), running seventh overall in a Mazda 323.

It's the latest thing in Jordan — sand skiing

By Fred Donovan
Special to the Jordan Times

IF one bright and sunny day you are driving along the desert highway from Amman to Aqaba, don't be alarmed if you see someone skiing along the sand. That's right, skiing! Don't worry, you most likely are not suffering from heat stroke. It's probably just Manfred Cizek, an Austrian sports enthusiast, enjoying his latest sports interest.

At first sight, Manfred doesn't appear the type who would do a "crazy" thing like skiing in the desert. He is a tall, well-built, unassuming 42-year-old Austrian civil engineer, who is working for architect professor Hannes Lindt of Vienna, renovating the Raghadan Palace.

But don't let appearances fool you. Manfred is a serious athlete who specialises in endurance sports. He runs in international marathons, tackles gruelling triathlons, and competes in world amateur events in cross-country skiing (that's snow skiing) and cycling.

Good conditioning, he warns, is necessary to ski on the sand. "You must be well-trained in sports to do it. It's more difficult than snow; you need your whole body," he says.

Using ordinary cross-country skis, Manfred has been skiing in



Manfred Cizek poses with his skis (left), while his Bedouin friends try out the new sport (right).



the Wadi Rum area, north of Aqaba, for the past several weekends. He skis 30 kilometres each time out; 10 kilometres out into the desert, and 10 kilometres back. He is training to eventually cross the entire Wadi Rum, a distance he estimates to be between 60 and 70 kilometres. This he hopes to do at the beginning of next year. "I'll need three pairs of skis, a guide, and a

camel," he says, half-joking. Needless to say, Manfred attracted attention on his skiing outings. "All the Bedouins came running after me, pulling me. They invited me into their tents, and offered me tea, food, and a place for me to sleep." Having spent four years working in the Middle East before coming to Jordan nine months ago, Manfred was able to understand and

communicate with the Bedouins. He even allowed them to try out his skis, although "they couldn't move with them," he says. Asked if there was any danger in desert skiing, Manfred replies: "Only for the drivers on the highway." He explains: "At one point I was skiing near the road from Amman to Aqaba. The truck drivers were looking at me and


drifting into the other lanes. They could have been an accident."

He hopes that sand skiing will catch on in Jordan. "I want to bring it to the attention of the Jordanian people," he says. "It could be a fantastic sport. It could be a new tourist attraction."

He is already considering holding sand skiing competitions. One idea he has is to hold a triathlon in the Aqaba region. For the first leg of the triathlon, the athletes would swim in the Gulf of Aqaba; then, they would cycle to the Wadi Rum police station; finally, they would ski across the sand back to Aqaba.

Manfred would like to interest some ski manufacturers, especially Austrian ones, in the new sport. "Austrians are famous skiers," he says. For sand skiing, the skis would have to be modified, perhaps to be constructed out of graphite or hard plastic, according to him. Also, people who wanted to participate would have to be trained for skiing through the desert. "It can get quite hot," he warns.

Manfred is hoping that the novelty of the sport will not discourage people from attempting it. He is aware, however, of the strangeness of the sport to Jordan. "There are only one pair of skis in Jordan, and they are mine," he muses.


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The Water Authority now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply of 70,000 water meters (1½-inch).

Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from, and inspect the bidding documents at, the office of the President, Water Authority, Nabulus Street, Jabal Al-Husseini, P.O. Box 2412 Amman, Jordan, Tel. 666111/7, Tlx. No. 22439 WAJJO.

A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by any interested eligible bidder on the submission of a written application to the above and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of JD 200.

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Eng. Mohammad S. Kilani
President
Water Authority

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Weekly Financial Report

By Fouad Bassam

The following report summarises trading activities in Amman of major European and Arab currencies as well as gold prices. The writer is a foreign exchange dealer at Halim-Saffi and Sons Co.

LAST WEEK: The U.S. dollar moved higher towards the 0.350 level. Technically, the dollar should go up after the big drop that moved it towards the 0.338 level against the JD. The dollar is appreciating because the American economic figures that are released last week were in favour of the dollar.

Amman dealers traded the dollar higher than the rates that were given by the Central Bank of Jordan. The local dealers traded the dollar between the ranges of 0.3485 to 0.3535. The high demand on the dollar for commercial and physical purposes gave the dollar this push on the JD.

Trading in European currencies

Sterling encountered some selling because of the higher dollar. Sterling fell from 0.495 to 0.488. DM, SF and Japanese yen also fell to lower levels because of the strength of the U.S. dollar.

DM traded between 0.1750 to 0.1700. SF traded between 0.2100 to 0.2055 and the yen traded between 0.002128 to 0.002100.

World trading in metals

Gold, platinum and silver reacted to the strong dollar. Gold fell from a high of \$394.50 an ounce to \$382.50 an ounce. Silver fell from \$5.48 an ounce to \$5.30 an ounce. Platinum fell from \$492 an ounce to \$466 an ounce.

Charts show that metals are going to bottom out this week and from this bottom they are going to make new highs.

Gold may go up to \$421 an ounce, silver to \$5.90 an ounce and platinum to \$5.40 an ounce.

Trading in Arab currencies

The Lebanese lira improved drastically from 0.0050 to 0.0065. The calm political situation that prevailed in Beirut and the new regulations set by the Lebanese Central Bank brought about this gain to the lira.

Syrian lira also improved from 0.0140 to 0.0152.

Gold prices in Amman

Gold per gramme JD 3.800
Gold per ounce JD 143.000
Rashadi lira JD 28.000
English lira JD 32.000

Venezuela partially devaluates bolivar

CARACAS (R) — President Jaime Lusinchi said Saturday he was devaluating the bolivar as part of a package of measures aimed at spurring economic growth.

Mr. Lusinchi said the new official rate would be 14.50 to the dollar, a 48 per cent drop from the 7.50 rate created in January this year.

The 7.50 rate will remain, but for limited imports of food, medicine and clothing, while the free market, where the bolivar sells for just under 25 to the dollar, will be severely restricted.

"The measures are aimed at correcting deep distortions in the Venezuelan economy, magnified by the oil income drop, and achieving growth with social justice," Mr. Lusinchi said in a nationwide address.

Venezuela has been hit by a near 50 per cent drop in oil income this year, forcing the government to renegotiate its \$32-billion foreign debt and reduce its previous forecasts of three per cent growth.

Mr. Lusinchi, who called on Venezuelans to cooperate in the government's efforts to stabilise the economy, said he hoped the measures would help the

free-market bolivar recover.

Banking sources said the currency measures were to some extent a step backwards since the government in January had simplified the previous multi-tier exchange rate to one official and one free-market rate.

Mr. Lusinchi said this had led to distortions, with some import items too cheap in dollar terms and others too costly. The free-market bolivar, in particular, has fallen to 25 from 15 at the start of the year.

By creating the new rate of 14.50 we hope to correct the overvaluation of the bolivar at the official rate and its undervaluation in the free market," he said.

Mr. Lusinchi also announced minimum-wage increases of 25 per cent for farm workers and 33 per cent for urban workers.

He also outlined plans to boost production, rationalise fiscal spending further, and stimulate domestic credit.

He confirmed a new plan for repayment of the \$7.8 billion private debt, whereby the government will guarantee dollars to private companies at a fixed rate on payment of a bolivar denominated premium.

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Stock market watchdogs to meet in London

LONDON (R) — A closer international watch for irregular financial dealings may result from a meeting which Britain plans to host later this week of officials who supervise financial markets in leading Western nations.

British officials said the talks on Thursday and Friday would bring together delegates from the United States, Japan, West Germany, France, Hong Kong and Switzerland as well as Britain, and they would explore ways of coordinating action against trading abuses.

The officials were optimistic that the meeting could achieve more than previous gatherings of this sort because Switzerland would attend.

The Swiss had tended to set themselves apart from some multinational measures to regulate financial activities.

The meeting coincides with investigations on Wall Street and in London into suspected insider trading — the improper use of privileged inside information in share trading — which is illegal in both the United States and Britain.

Insider dealing scandals hit the headlines last month when Wall Street financier Ivan Boesky agreed to pay \$100 million in penalties to settle insider trading charges in the United States.

In Britain, government and police investigators, acting partly on information from the United States, have begun inquiries.

"I can't remember anything like it," said analyst John Mant of London stockbrokers James Capel.

British officials said many insider deals on the London exchange are carried out through financial institutions based in Switzerland, Panama or in offshore dependencies which protect their clients' anonymity.

Britain's opposition Labour Party has meanwhile renewed attacks on what it sees as inaction by Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's right-wing Conservative government in the face of floating of market rules by investors.

On Oct. 27, London markets entered a new era of free competition and computerised trading when a series of measures to remove barriers to free competition, known as "big bang," took effect.

Under the new system, the markets have to appoint their own "watchdog" organisations to guard against malpractices. Critics say Britain needs a government body with wider powers, similar to those of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

According to Labour Party trade and industry spokesman Robin Cook, the prices of shares in companies involved in takeover battles last year rose by an average 25 per cent in the three months before the bids were announced.

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Arab oil income seen falling by \$60b in '86

KUWAIT (R) — Arab oil producers, facing a predicted income drop of \$60 billion this year, called on the industrialised world Saturday to channel to the Third World some of its huge savings from lower oil and commodity prices.

The monthly bulletin of the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC) predicted a fall in income of \$60 billion for Arab oil exporters due to the fall in world oil prices.

But the price slump together with the slide in the value of the dollar, in which most oil sales are priced, would save industrialised countries nearly \$100 billion, it said.

This change in fortunes, OAPEC said, underscored "the necessity of recycling (to the Third World) the petrodollars accruing to the industrial countries from the decline in the prices of oil and other primary commodities."

World oil prices currently are around \$14 to \$15 a barrel, half their level of a year ago, after recovering from below \$10 several months back.

The OAPEC call came only days after the secretary general of the 24-nation Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), Jean-Claude Paye, urged members to step up aid efforts.

Figures published recently for the 10 Arab-based development funds show their "soft" aid to the Third World fell 15.7 per cent in 1985, a further nine per cent in the first eight months of 1986.

Western government aid to the Third World rose two per cent last year to nearly \$30 billion, but the rise was only half the average of the previous five years, OECD officials said. The slower growth would continue until 1990, they said.

"Jordan also affected"

OAPEC argued that the crash in oil prices was felt not only by Arab producers, but had ripple effects on non-oil developing states such as Jordan which had friendly ties with the West and other countries that have enjoyed help from Arab oil exporters.

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Details of Arab government official aid are not known.

The Kuwait-based OAPEC groups Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Iraq, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Libya and Algeria, all members of the 13-nation Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). It also includes non-OPEC Bahrain, Syria and Tunisia. Egypt was suspended after its 1979 peace treaty with Israel.

Tunisia has served notice of its wish to pull out, and Prime Minister Rachid Sfar was quoted here Saturday as saying it was because his country would soon become a net oil importer.

When Tunisia joined, in 1982, results from exploration had suggested output would build up to 10 million tonnes a year, but it was currently pumping only half that, he told the Kuwaiti daily Al Qabas in Tunis.

In a bid to stave off the second rift in its ranks in a decade, OAPEC last week offered to let Tunisia — in arrears on budget dues since 1983 — remain a nominal member and suspend its obligations until it felt able to resume and active role. Mr. Sfar gave no indication of Tunisia's response to the proposal.

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Crude oil markets paralysed ahead of this week's OPEC talks

NEW YORK (R) — This week's OPEC meeting in Geneva, aimed at finding a way to boost oil prices, has caused such uncertainty in oil markets that trading came to a virtual standstill last week, according to traders and analysts.

"The market is ominously still. There is little trading and too much fear to do anything," said Albert Anton, an analyst with Carl H. Pforzheimer and Company.

Few traders believe the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) will be able to agree on the production cuts necessary to reach its price goal of \$18 a barrel.

However, an agreement to cut output, estimated at more than 17 million barrels a day, could push prices higher.

Crude oil prices for international market grades like "West Texas intermediate" were virtually unchanged last week at \$15.25 a barrel.

The consensus among analysts is leaning towards an uneventful meeting when OPEC's 13 members gather on Thursday.

"OPEC is more likely to leave things as they are. Their best strategy is to leave things alone and roll over their (current production) agreement," said Dillard Spriggs of Petroleum Analysis Ltd.

OPEC nations are operating under a temporary agreement which limits their crude oil output to about 17 million barrels a day. The accord expires at the end of

this month. Whether OPEC members will continue the accord or revise it significantly is the big unknown, analysts say.

Dozens hurt in Paris violence; student leaders call for strike

PARIS (R) — Dozens of people were hurt, cars set on fire and many shops looted as baton-wielding riot police and demonstrating youths clashed in the left bank area of Paris early today.

The youths had gone on a three-hour rampage described as the worst since the 1968 student uprising which nearly brought down the then Gaullist government of Prime Minister Georges Pompidou.

Police and hospital sources said 58 policemen and a dozen demonstrators were injured in the latest violence.

Police said 28 people were detained, including 16 students.

They said 13 vehicles and three telephone booths were set on fire and shops were ransacked, especially along the Boulevard Saint-Michel in the heart of the student quarter.

Later Sunday, militants of Prime Minister Jacques Chirac's Gaullist Party met for a national congress and were told by Overseas Territories Minister Bernard Pons:

"You have nothing to be ashamed of. You have no reason to lose your nerve."

Mr. Chirac himself chaired the RPR Party meeting as Mr. Pons, a former secretary-general of the movement, declared that the government would not back away from its campaign to reform France's universities despite the student protests against proposed changes.

He attacked the "obstinacy" of those who refused change in higher education and pledged openness and dialogue but also firmness in applying government policy.

The congress was overshadowed by the death of one student from a heart attack after he was involved in clashes with police early Saturday.

He heard a 24-year-old Paris student from one of the faculties

not involved in the current protest strikes blame a "striker's dictatorship" for encouraging the renewed violence.

Police used bulldozers to smash their way through blazing barricades in the Latin Quarter as photographers at the scene counted at least 20 cars set ablaze. Windows were smashed and shops looted.

After the violent crushing of the demonstration staged in protest, at the right-wing government's education policies, France's student leaders called on unions and workers to strike on Wednesday to express their outrage at (police) repression and their determination to obtain the withdrawal of the Monory-Devaquet plan.

Student leaders dissociated themselves from the violence, saying it was the work of provocateurs with no link with the student movement.

"Our credibility and strength come from the fact that we remain peaceful," a communiqué issued after an all-night student committee debate said.

The Latin Quarter, traditional centre of Parisian student life, was a scene of desolation with looted shops, smashed windows and blackened cars.

Curfew extended in eastern Sri Lanka

COLOMBO (R) — Authorities Sunday extended for a further 11 hours a curfew imposed on an eastern district of Sri Lanka where 24 people died in two days of communal strife, residents said.

They told Reuters there had been no incidents since Saturday night and the situation was calm after clashes between Tamils and Muslims in Batticaloa district, 230 kilometres north east of Colombo.

The curfew was to have been lifted at dusk but authorities extended it until 5 a.m. to prevent further clashes between the two communities.

Dissident says Taiwan is still far from democracy

TOKYO (AP) — Taiwanese dissident leader Hsu Hsin-Liang sees the results of his homeland's elections as a good beginning for the new opposition party, but feels Taiwan is still far from democracy, his spokesman said Sunday.

In Saturday's elections, dissidents running for the first time under the banner of the native Taiwanese Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) increased their seats from seven to 12 in the law-making legislative Yuan and from three to 11 in the National Assembly.

The 45-year-old Hsu, who faces sedition charges for alleged links to rioting in Taiwan in 1979, flew

into Taipei last Tuesday in an effort to help DPP members campaign, but was turned back to Manila. He came to Tokyo on Wednesday, vowing he would continue to try to return to Taiwan after seven years of exile in the United States.

On the results of the election, spokesman Leonard Shu quoted Mr. Hsu as saying, "this is a good beginning for a new party."

Mr. Shu told the Associated Press in a telephone interview, however, that Mr. Hsu felt Taiwan still has a long way to go to reach the "100 per cent democracy" that Mr. Hsu wants to see.

Poland forms new advisory body with non-Communists

WARSAW (R) — Polish Communist leader Wojciech Jaruzelski has reached agreement with leading Roman Catholics and academics on forming a government advisory body which will give them rare political influence in East Europe.

Talks Saturday ended in the formation of a new consultative council. It has the indirect approval of the Polish bishops, which will advise the council of state, the country's collective presidency, on social issues.

Gen. Jaruzelski said before the meeting: "I am counting on it (the council) to become a new, experimental form, broadening the platform of search for dialogue, civil initiatives and co-responsibility."

Details of the agreement were

not immediately announced but informed sources said the talks were expected to focus on the extent of the council's role and potential influence.

The official Polish news agency (PAP) described the discussions as "an open and unrestrained exchange of views on the most important problems facing the nation."

The government regards the council as part of its effort to build national reconciliation following the suppression of the Solidarity free trade union under martial law and Poland's economic collapse.

Although Solidarity activists have not dismissed the council, they said respected senior advisers to the union had declined invitations to join.

AIDS research programme underway in S. Union

MOSCOW (R) — A broad programme of AIDS research is underway in the Soviet Union, where only a handful of cases of the lethal disease have been reported in the official press.

The newspaper Sotsialisticheskaya Industriya reported Saturday that dozens of scientific institutes were taking part in the programme, which included work on an AIDS vaccine.

AIDS, or acquired immune deficiency syndrome, destroys the body's ability to fight disease. There is no known cure.

The newspaper quoted Viktor Zhdanov, who heads the Virology Institute at the Soviet Academy of Medical Sciences, as saying "single instances" of AIDS had been registered in the country.

Soviet officials, who as recently as October last year denied there were any AIDS cases in the Soviet Union, this year acknowledged there have been at least 12 Soviet AIDS victims.

Dr. Zhdanov said Soviet researchers had been studying AIDS for about two years.

He stressed the importance of samples of the AIDS virus received from colleagues in the West, singling out Dr. Luc Montagnier of France's Pasteur Institute and Dr. Robert Gallo of the U.S. National Institute of Health for special praise.

The tone of the article contrasted markedly with previous Soviet press treatment of AIDS, typified by a cartoon in the Communist Party newspaper Pravda in October which portrayed the disease as a creation of Pentagon laboratories.

Soviet press allegations earlier this year that AIDS had been engineered as part of a U.S. biological warfare programme sparked an angry protest from the American ambassador in Moscow.

Police said Delgado began by stabbing to death a 34-year-old neighbour and her daughter. He then returned to the apartment he shared with his mother, killed her and set her body afire.

Delgado knocked on other apartment doors and as people came to the door fired his pistol. Five women attending nearby Javeriana University were killed.

He then visited the home of a former student, but did not harm her or her family. He appeared calm during the one-hour visit, she said.

Delgado proceeded to a nearby Italian restaurant and ate dinner. Witnesses said he went to the restroom, came out minutes later and walked up to a table where six people were dining.

There was a loud exchange of words. Delgado whipped out a .38-calibre revolver and shot each of the six people in the head, witnesses said.

People began screaming and diving under tables, and some crashed through windows as Delgado calmly reloaded, wandered around the restaurant and shot each of his victims in the head or the neck, witnesses said.

"What are you looking at," Delgado said as he shot one victim, the restaurant's cleaning woman told the newspaper El Espectador. The woman, who would not give her name, was not hurt.

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Charles tipped as possible governor of Hong Kong

LONDON (R) — Prince Charles, the heir to the British throne, was tipped Sunday as a possible governor of Hong Kong to replace Sir Edward Youde who died last week.

The Sunday Telegraph said in a front page report that there was growing popular support in the British territory for the 38-year-old prince's appointment as governor in the key years before the colony is handed back to China in 1997.

Both Buckingham Palace and the British Foreign Office have refused to comment on speculation that the prince might be among the handful of names now being considered for the post.

The job is usually filled by career diplomats, appointed by Queen Elizabeth on the advice of her foreign minister, Sir Edward who died in Peking on Friday at the age of 62, had no obvious successor.

"Like his uncle, Earl Mountbatten of Burma, who presided over the independence of India in 1947, Prince Charles has both the authority and the public stature to steer the colony towards the end of British rule," the Sunday Telegraph said.

"His presence in Government House would give badly-needed confidence to Hong Kong's financial community."

But it added that the prince, who speaks neither Cantonese nor Mandarin, "is known to have strong reservations about taking on such an extraordinarily delicate task."

Meanwhile the body of Sir Edward was flown to the British colony from Peking Saturday night as the government said his funeral would be held on Tuesday.

Sir Edward's body, and his wife and two daughters, arrived on a VC-10 jet of Britain's Royal Air Force.

The government meanwhile announced he would be cremated in Hong Kong after a service at the Anglican Cathedral.

Share prices fell and the Hong Kong dollar declined when the news of Sir Edward's death reached the colony where he had been overseeing preparations for Hong Kong's return to China in 1997.

Zhao: Chinese-Soviet ties have improved

PEKING (AP) — Chinese-Soviet ties have improved over the past few years, but there still are three obstacles to normalisation of political relations, Chinese Premier Zhao Ziyang was quoted Sunday as saying.

China's official Xinhua News Agency said Mr. Zhao also said in an interview with Regino Diaz Redondo, director of the Mexican newspaper Excelsior, that there have been developments in Chinese-U.S. relations in recent years.

"Sino-U.S. relations are normal although there are still obstacles, mainly the Taiwan issue," Mr. Zhao said.

China opposes the sale of U.S. arms to Taiwan's Nationalist government, which considers itself the rightful ruler of China.

"We oppose the U.S. support to Nicaragua's anti-government forces because it is a kind of interference," he added.

"We maintain that the domestic issues of the Central American countries should be solved by their own people without foreign interference and the relations between countries, including those between the U.S. and Nicaragua, should be solved through equal and peaceful means and not by force," Zhao said.

The past few years have seen improvement in Sino-Soviet ties, especially in the fields of economy, trade, science and technology and in personnel exchange," Mr. Zhao said.

"But political relations have not yet been normalised," and the obstacles of Soviet troops along the Sino-Mongolian and Sino-Soviet borders, the Soviet presence in Afghanistan and Soviet support for the Vietnamese intervention in Kampuchea remain unresolved, he said.

Mr. Zhao said countries with the same social system or ideology do not necessarily have good relations and might even have tension or conflict.

Therefore, he said, China bases its policy toward relations with the United States and the Soviet Union on mutual respect for territorial integrity and sovereignty, mutual non-aggression, non-interference in each other's internal affairs, and peaceful co-existence.

He said China hopes Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and U.S. President Ronald Reagan will continue dialogue on arms control and reach an agreement that will not harm other countries.

China, Mexico sign accords

PEKING (AP) — China and Mexico signed a consular treaty and several economic cooperation agreements Sunday during Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid's visit.

Mr. De la Madrid left Peking Sunday for the ancient capital of Xian. He was scheduled to meet with President Li Xianmin later in Shanghai.

At a news conference earlier, the Mexican president described his visit, during which he met with Premier Zhao Ziyang, Communist Party Chief Hu Yaobang and top leader Deng Xiaoping, as "very satisfactory."

Mr. Zhao and Mr. De la Madrid on Sunday signed an agreement on social and economic planning cooperation, and agreement on reciprocating a credit line between the Bank of China and Mexico's Bank of Foreign Commerce and a cooperation agreement between the Mexican bank and the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade.

The two countries progressed in negotiations to expand their agreements on maritime transportation and held discussions on specific ways to

Miguel de la Madrid

cooperate in commercial areas, Mr. De la Madrid said.

He said he and Mr. Zhao discussed the problem of Latin American countries' foreign debt and Mr. Zhao expressed confidence in work by the Cartagena group of 10 Latin American nations to solve the problem.

On the Central American conflict, Mr. De la Madrid said Mexico would continue peace efforts through diplomatic means.

"The Central American conflict is becoming more and more every day an East-West conflict," he said.

U.N. delegates clamour for water

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Thirty U.N. speakers are up in arms because, in an economy measure, the financially strapped United Nations has stopped supplying ice water to delegates in the conference rooms.

Delegates spent much of a four-hour meeting that adjourned Friday night disagreeing on how to have the ice water service, estimated to cost \$100,000 a year, reinstated.

A plenary meeting of the General Assembly was asked to take up the question and decide whether and when the water wagons will roll again.

Action is expected this week, but already the cost of the discussion, including overtime for staff, may have erased a water saving so far of about \$40,000, officials said.

The issue first came up in the assembly's 159-nation Financial Committee, which asked last week

that "within existing resources" water be restored immediately. The matter was transferred to the Budgetary Committee because of its financial implications.

In the committee Friday, it turned out that who gets water now may be a matter of some discrimination. Shahid Kamal of Pakistan said chairmen still get their pitchers.

Richard Foran, the U.N. controller, said senior U.N. officials lost their water privileges even before delegates did. But Pastor Mgaiza of Tanzania rejoined that Mr. Foran had his pitcher and what were the financial implications of that?

Mr. Foran said three staff members who worked the water shift had been dismissed and two part-timers now do water duty. Given the U.N.'s estimated \$85 million revenue shortfall, it was time for "innovative thinking," he said.

Even Fontaine-Ortiz of Cuba, the chairman, said chairmen and podium staff were unable to join the line at the water fountain because of their important duties.

Oluseye Oduyemi of Nigeria suggested that delegates get their water in plastic cups at nominal cost.

Maria Emerson of Portugal said it was a frivolous debate and she recommended no action be taken. When she was thirsty she drank at the fountain, she said.

Bernard Mutho of Kenya, who said "water is life," observed that it would be a costly frivolity if the committee did not pass the Financial Committee's proposal along to the General Assembly.

The chairman said the time taken up in the debate might be more expensive than all the U.N. water served in a year.

The committee will resume debate on other aspects of the financial crisis on Monday.

Reporters stake out Senate Intelligence Committee

WASHINGTON (AP) — In an obscure and shadowy corner of a Senate office building, a set of doors marked "danger, no admission, hard hat area" swung open and three men in long trench coats stepped through.

Their collars were turned up. Their felt hats were pulled low, and each carried a large, black briefcase.

"They look just like a bunch of spies" from a Hollywood movie, said a reporter, peering at the scene from a press lookout 22 metres away.

Surrounded by a covey of white-shirted police, the trenchcoats marched in quick step down a second-floor corridor next to the marble-clad atrium of the Hart Senate office building toward the hearing room of the Senate Intelligence Committee.

They turned left, showed identification to another knot of police officers, then filed into the anteroom of an office suit protected by the highest degree of security on Capitol Hill.

No one on the outside knew who they were.

But if they were witnesses, they passed through thick steel-and-bronze doors into a conference room protected by armour and high technology.

Inside the chamber, witnesses were escorted to seats at a table covered with green cloth.

The committee was taking secret testimony in what is sure to be only the first of many investigations of the diversion of up to \$30 million in profits from the sales of U.S. arms to Iran, defying the will of Congress, and covertly supplying aid to the contra rebels in Nicaragua.

Former National Security Adviser John Poindexter arrived in a cloth cap and civilian suit. His fired aide, Lt.-Col. Oliver North, arrived separately in his U.S. Marine Corps uniform, his chest ablaze with row after row of military awards and combat ribbons.

Both exercised their right under the fifth amendment of U.S. constitution to avoid answering questions on grounds the answers might incriminate them.

On the first day the committee vowed to abide by its rules. It would not comment on testimony. It would not identify witnesses. It would not say if anyone refused to testify. It would not respond to leaks. It would not say whether stories printed about its activities were true or false.

Some rules lasted the week. Some were bent, or at least relaxed.

On the first day attempts were made to learn whether former National Security Adviser Robert McFarlane had testified.

No one would say. Finally Sen. Thomas Eagleton, an opposition Democrat, who is retiring at the end of the year, confirmed it.

Reporters camped on an interior footbridge over a gallery leading to the atrium. One kept the doors to the committee's reception room under observation with binoculars.

The office building is relatively new. The police officers who guard it are not as familiar with reporters and camera crews as those who patrol the Capitol building, a short walk away.

The relationship quickly acquired a certain sourness. "No sitting on the floor," a policeman ordered.

An unused stack of folding chairs was found and distributed.

They were confiscated and taken away during the night.

Finally, Sen. Arlen Specter, a Republican, ordered chairs to be made available.

Reporters thanked him, then asked if he could confirm a story in which Mr. McFarlane was reported to have told senators that President Ronald Reagan — despite his denials — gave advance approval to Israel's sale of U.S. arms to Iran.

"I prefer not to say anything," Sen. Specter replied. "I just hope you like your chairs."

COLUMN 8

2 sentenced in phony marriage scheme

CLEVELAND, Ohio (AP) — A faulty typewriter key led to the arrests of a father and daughter who arranged phony marriages for would-be immigrants from Egypt, officials say.

Yagob Hassan Ibrahim, 53, a Jordanian, and his daughter, Samira Hassan, 25, a U.S. citizen, arranged at least 20 and perhaps 100 fake weddings for men trying to stay in the United States, immigration authorities believe.

Ibrahim, indicted in August on 23 counts, was sentenced this week to three years in prison and a \$2,000 fine. He is subject to deportation. His daughter was placed on three years' probation and fined \$1,000.

According to authorities, Ibrahim took a fee from Egyptians seeking permanent residency in the United States. American women were recruited, for \$400 to \$700, to marry the aliens. A free divorce was included in the deal. Robert L. Brown, area Immigration and Naturalisation Service director, said the scheme was uncovered when officials noticed a number of applications for permanent residency were coming in with affidavits of support apparently from the same typewriter. The affidavits frequently contained the phrase, "if you have any questions please contact..." The letter Q was dropped below the line each time, said assistant U.S. Attorney Joseph P. Schmitz.

Ex-Beatle wins campaign to save local cinema

HENLEY-ON-THAMES, England (AP) — Ex-Beatle George Harrison has won a campaign to save his local moviehouse from being converted into a supermarket. The pop artist, joined by other celebrities in the affluent town west of London, gathered 8,000 signatures on a petition to spare the Regal Cinema. The local council voted 11-0 Wednesday night to scrap the redevelopment plan and allow the Harrison camp to present an alternative scheme for renovating the street where the cinema stands. The Regal closed in May, but Harrison insists there is still an audience in Henley-On-Thames for the right kind of films.

1,666 Indian women murdered over dowries

NEW DELHI (AP) — The Indian government has reported that 1,666 women were murdered in the last 22 months by their husbands or in-laws, for not providing enough wedding gifts. Torture and murders linked to the ancient dowry custom are reported to be on the rise because of increasing consumerism in India. Accepting or giving dowry is a criminal offense with a minimum prison sentence of five years and a fine of 15,000 rupees (\$1,153). Almost every day newspapers report that wives are tortured or killed in India by husbands or in-laws for not providing a sufficient dowry. A dowry customarily contains gifts of cash, cattle, consumer goods, gold and other wealth given by a bride's family to the bridegroom's family at the time of marriage. In many cases, the bride's father must promise to make payments in installments if the family is unable to provide an acceptable dowry at the time of the marriage.

Ripper's last victim gets tombstone

LONDON (AP) — Mary Kelly, the last known victim of Jack the Ripper, received a tombstone on her unmarked grave Wednesday from one of the Legions of Amateur Sleuths who claim to know the identity of the Victorian mass murderer. Nobody knows for sure who stabbed and disemboweled at least five London prostitutes in the autumn of 1888. John Morrison, 60, an unemployed truck driver, has spent four years investigating the mystery of Jack the Ripper. He believes that Mary Kelly was murdered by her former lover, James Kelly, who escaped from a hospital for the criminally insane and went looking for her in London. Under Morrison's theory, James Kelly murdered prostitutes during his search, gaining the nickname of "Jack the Ripper." Morrison donated a marble tombstone at the grave of Mary Kelly in a Roman Catholic cemetery in East London.

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